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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

How worried are you about the entry of the H1N1 virus into the CNMI?

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INSIDE

Active Life

Campus Life features beauty titlist and Kagman High personality Yvette Deleon Guerrero Bennett.

CAMPUS LIFE...Page 18

MTV Awards

It's "Twilight" versus "Slumdog Millionaire" at this year's MTV Movie Awards.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

Villagomez lawyers want acquittal or another trial. **PAGE 2**

'No reprogrammed funds since CUC emergency declaration' **PAGE 3**

AMP war museum tests 7-day run

WWII artifacts may take longer to be displayed again

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The National Park Service has revived the seven-day operation of the American Memorial Park's Visitor Center and World War II Exhibit Hall in Garapan for a two-month trial period to see whether the facility will be able to keep its power costs down.

Park ranger Nancy A. Kelchner said yesterday the trial period started on April 27 and will run until June 27.

Under the new schedule, the visitor center/museum and bookstore is open from Sunday

See AMP on Page 4

'SCAVENGER HUNT' HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

American Memorial Park ranger Nancy A. Kelchner, seated front center, poses with nearly a hundred students from Kagman Elementary School and Chacha Oceanview Junior High School after the "Scavenger Hunt," where the students learned to decode numbers and words and answered puzzles and riddles—all relating to Marianas history and culture. ***See story on Page 4.***

CNMI yet to get share in $267M federal funding for insular areas

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

While states began receiving their fiscal stabilization money in April, the CNMI and three other insular areas have yet to receive their share of up to $267 million in stimulus funding set aside for them, according to Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan.

Sablan and U.S. Virgin Islands Delegate Donna M. Christensen wrote to Education Secretary Arne Duncan, asking for action on the distribution of money from the State Fiscal

See CNMI on Page 4

A. Samoa to lose tuna cannery

By FILI SAGAPOLUTELE
SAMOA NEWS

AMERICAN SAMOA—After more than two weeks of rumors and speculation, it is now official: COS Samoa Packing is closing its local operations at the end of September. Chicken

See A. SAMOA on Page 4

Tulafono

Babauta, Heinz sign 'unity' accord; ready for primary

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

In the presence of key officials and members of the local Republican Party, gubernatorial bets Heinz Hofschneider and Juan N. Babauta yesterday signed an agreement affirming their commitment to give full support to whoever wins in the primary polls next month.

The local GOP hopes that the accord will put to rest specula-

See BABAUTA on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

From left, the Republican Party tandems of Galvin Deleon Guerrero-Juan Babauta and Heinz Hoifschneider-Arnold Palacios pledge to support whoever wins in the primary elections that will be held in June.

Local

Villagomez lawyers want acquittal or another trial

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The lawyers of former Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez want a retrial or an acquittal of their client, arguing that the government failed to prove that the islands' second highest official committed wire fraud, theft, and bribery.

In a 14-page motion for judgment of acquittal filed in the U.S. District Court for the CNMI on May 1, lawyers David Lujan and Joey San Nicolas described the federal court's guilty verdict as unfair and unjust.

Villagomez, his sister Joaquina V. Santos, and his brother-in-law James Santos were convicted on April 24 of conspiracy to commit offenses against the U.S., wire fraud, theft concerning a program receiving federal funds, and bribery.

Villagomez's lawyers argued that none of the elements of conspiracy was satisfied, considering that government witness Anthony C. Guerrero repeatedly agreed during cross examination that there was no agreement between himself and any of the defendants.

No evidence of fraud or any transmission of signals or sounds by means of wire in interstate and foreign commerce was found, they said. The only thing presented, the lawyers said, was the wire transfer from Saipan to Illinois.

They added that the government did not call a single witness to testify that the application for telegraphic transfer was, in fact, approved by a local bank and if the money was actually sent from the CNMI to Illinois by means of wire.

For these reasons, the lawyers said the court should grant Villagomez and his sister's motion for judgment of acquittal. Alternatively, they said, the court should hold a new trial in light of the multiple jurors' misconduct.

Judicial misconduct

A separate 12-page document also asked for the disqualification of U.S. District Court for the CNMI judge Alex Munson.

Villagomez's and his sister's lawyers stated that Munson showed "apparent bias" and made "prejudicial comments" amounting to judicial misconduct.

As a result, they said, the defendant was denied his right to a fair and impartial judge.

They said the evidence of bias and misconduct is "overwhelming."

Lujan and San Nicolas said the motion was filed when they discovered, through cross examination of government witness Joseph Muna Fejeran, that he had not only participated in the jury orientation but also served as the government's jury consultant.

The court, they said, did not disclose its communication with Fejeran and they presumed that the government used Fejeran's comments.

The same document stated that the court made numerous comments demeaning the efforts of the defendant's counsel and reflecting his opinion regarding the defendant. It also, on numerous occasions, assisted the government in questioning witnesses and in the admission of evidence, they said.

"The court's conduct created the impression for the jurors that the defendants were a threat to them," the lawyers said.

They asked that Munson be disqualified from further participation in the case to preserve the constitutional integrity of the proceedings.

Villagomez and the other defendants are scheduled for sentencing in July.

PTI's call center division presents expansion plans

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

PTI Services Inc., the communications company that pioneered the call center business in the CNMI, presented its expansion plans during a public hearing yesterday at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Two representatives, executive vice president Larry Knecht and executive director Ralph Harrell, led the presentation of the firm's short-term and long-term goals, seen to create more jobs for local residents.

The public hearing was in connection with the company's application for a qualifying certificate.

"It was very well presented. It was a statutory requirement. Such presentation is pursuant to law, meaning it was part of an application for the call center business," said Manny Sablan, Commonwealth Development Authority executive director.

He said PTI had to lay out its business plans in terms of the economic benefits for the CNMI.

Sablan said the public comments generated from yesterday's public hearing would be considered when CDA decides on the company's QC application.

Sablan recalled that one of the comments was whether the applicant really needs to establish a call center.

After Knecht and Harrell explained their proposed plans, Sablan said that it is now up to the CDA board to decide whether to accept the application because the details of the expansion plan would have to be discussed yet.

The next move would be for the company to make the presentation to the CDA board.

"The company started the call center business and want to expand and provide better services and hopefully to give more jobs to the local community,' he said.

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Maya B. Kara is a former CNMI Acting Attorney General, Chief Legislative Counsel, Governor's and Lt. Governor's Legal Counsel and DOL Hearing Officer

FITIAL SUBMITS 152-PAGE REPORT TO LEGISLATURE

'No reprogrammed funds since CUC emergency declaration'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's office submitted to the Legislature yesterday a 152-page narrative report on the declaration of a state of disaster emergency for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., disclosing that no fund has been reprogrammed to CUC under this authority from Aug. 1, 2008, through April 30, 2009.

This, despite incurring $7 million in losses for water and wastewater services, and after paying Aggreko International $504,000 per month for the rent of generators since September 2008.

The report said payments to Aggreko were funded through CUC's general revenues and collection from its energy customers, while financing for the used oil, water and wastewater challenges are expected to be met through CUC's general revenues and collections.

"As of this date, no reprogramming of Commonwealth funds to the CUC has been required or taken under the authority of the disaster declarations," the report said.

Fitial signed Public Law 16-9 on Aug. 1, 2008, to allow CUC to procure emergency power during periods of declared power emergencies.

The governor issued his declaration the same day through Executive Order 2008-10, and has been extending this every month.

On May 1, the governor extended the emergency declaration for another 30 days.

The 152-page second interim narrative report on the disaster declaration dated May 5 contains 14 attachments, including the governor's report to the Legislature dated Sept. 29, 2008, eight executive orders, CUC's PowerPoint presentation to the Legislature regarding the rehabilitation of Power Plant 1, and progress reports on stipulated orders involving used oil, water and wastewater.

It also outlines the measures taken to address the power crisis through renting generators from Aggreko, and in addressing used oil and water and wastewater challenges, as well as a financial plan for meeting the costs of the emergency and procurement under the disaster declarations.

The report said CUC has never made a finding that compliance is impossible under CUC and CNMI procurement regulations nor has CUC elected to procure any goods and services under the suspension authority granted by the disaster declarations.

"If in the future CUC procures any goods or services in this manner, CUC will fully document all such procurement activity for executive, PUC [Public Utilities Commission], public auditor and legislative review," the report said.

Fitial, in his latest extension of a state of disaster emergency for CUC on May 1, said the Office of the Governor has been unable to find qualified persons for appointment to the CUC board of directors.

CNMI nurses lack funds for 31st APNLC Conference

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The CNMI Nursing Association needs financial support so it could host the 31st Conference of the American Pacific Nursing Leaders Council in June.

Bertha P. Camacho, vice president of the CNMI Nursing Association, spoke before members of the Rotary Club of Saipan yesterday to solicit support for the conference, which is hosted via a 10-year rotation among member jurisdictions.

Guam hosted the last event in 1999.

Hyatt Regency Saipan will be the venue for this year's conference on June 15-19 and up to 200 participants from all over the region are expected to attend.

Camacho said they have been actively raising fund for this event but the economic climate has not allowed them to reach their goals and are seeking everyone's help.

"Any financial support to fund this event will significantly contribute to the efforts of these nursing leaders in Pacific jurisdictions to improve nursing-related health care functions," she said.

Camacho said the shortage of nurses threatens the future of the world's health care system so the main goal of the upcoming conference would be to address this.

The two main objectives, Camacho said, are to empower nurses and to create stronger community support.

"In an effort to address these ongoing and possibly worsening issues, nursing leaders and key team players have researched and identified strategies that can relieve these burdens and hopefully reverse this nursing shortage trend," Camacho stressed.

Participants will come from American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia (Ponpei, Chuuk, Kosrae, and Yap), Guam, Hawaii, Marshall Islands (Ebeye and Majuro), Palau and the CNMI. For the first time, Japan will also be joining the event.

The conference aims to discuss problems confronting nursing in the American Pacific Basin, among other issues.

Camacho said this would also provide a venue for nurses to share their expertise with their counterparts in the region.

She said participants would develop and implement strategic plans and take a stand on health care issues affecting their jurisdictions.

Besides two full days of continuing education for participants, there will be nursing recruitment session as well as a business meeting for APNLC officers.

"We hope to see participants who deal with recruitment of nurses to attend the education session on 'Recruitment and Retention Strategies of Nurses in the CNMI,'" Camacho said.

Some of the agencies and organizations that will participate include the U.S. Department of the Interior, World Health Organization, Pacific Resources Education Laboratory, Pacific Islands Health Officers Association and the Department of Health Services from around the region.

There are about 50 members of the CNMI Nursing Association.

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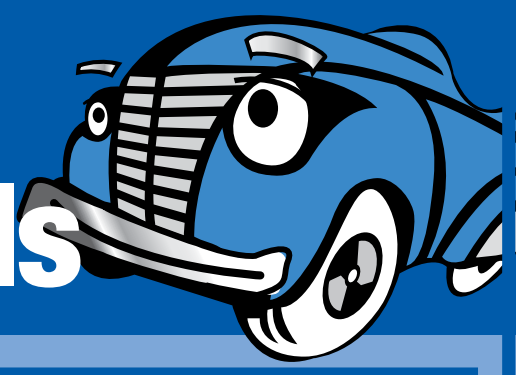

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Learning Marianas history via 'scavenger hunt'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Nearly a hundred students from Kagman Elementary School and Chacha Oceanview Junior High School were treated to a fun, exciting, and challenging "Scavenger Hunt" at the American Memorial Park yesterday.

Working in groups, the students learned to decode numbers and words and answered puzzles and riddles—all relating to Marianas' rich history and culture—to get the correct answers to problems.

Starting at 9am yesterday, 60 seventh graders from Chacha and over 30 fifth graders from Kagman Elementary were separated into groups of five to six members and were given instructions through sets of numbers that they needed to decode before the problem could be solved.

"It's full of fun and very exciting!" seventh grader Frankie Blas said as soon as his group completed the task.

Blas described the activity an alternative way of enhancing their learning ability through "hunting" for answers. "All we needed to do was cooperate with one another…work as a team and have fun while hunting for the answers to the riddles!"

Keena Barcial, also a seventh grader, was amazed at how the questions were framed.

"We needed to understand fully well what's in the riddle before we could finally look for the answer, which actually were just within the park area. This is something that made us more resourceful," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Barcial said she always looks forward to this activity every year.

Seen guiding the group hunters was AMP ranger Nancy A. Kelchner, who commended the students' great enthusiasm and interest.

According to Chacha Oceanview teachers Hilda Joyner and Marina P. Deleon Guerrero, there were three ranger-guided programs conducted yesterday.

These included "The Battle of Saipan," "Saipan: A Place in History," and "Caught Between a Rock and a Hard Place—Saipan's Indigenous Population."

War-related documentaries about the Marianas were also shown to the students as well as a tour of the American Visitor's Center display.

AMP

From Page 1

to Saturday, from 10am to 5pm.

Due to high utility costs, the museum was earlier forced to close during Mondays and Tuesdays.

The facility also had to remove many pre-war and World War II artifacts from the museum and store them at the NMI Museum of History and Culture in Garapan, and the War in the Pacific National Historical Park in Guam where the climate controlled environment protects them from damage.

Also gone were the light and sound effects in the museum to reduce costs.

Kelchner said among the cost-saving measures the facility has done are raising the temperature of the air conditioners, replacing the light bulbs with more energy efficient ones, and turning off equipment at night.

"We're trying to make sure that our [energy] use goes down even if power costs go up," she said, adding that additional energy saving measures will be done in the summer.

Theo Chargualaf, acting superintendent of the War in the Pacific National Historical Park in Guam, yesterday said NPS always believes that "it is ideal for the visitor center and museum to open seven days a week for tourists and residents."

"We have been trying to do our best to keep the utility costs down…It's a slow process," he told *Saipan Tribune* in a phone interview.

He said at one point, utility costs at the American Memorial Park's Visitor Center and World War II Exhibit Hall reached around $200,000 a year, which, he said, "is a lot of money."

Chargualaf said in 2008, NPS hired a specialist to review the energy efficiency of the visitor center and museum and made some recommendations that included tinting the windows and changing the air conditioning system.

"We will know after the two-month trial period whether to continue the seven-day operation or not," he added.

Chargualaf said, however, that the precious artifacts will take longer to be brought back.

The artifacts used to be displayed in glass cases at the war museum. They included an aviator helmet and goggles, a U.S. M1 Garand rifle, a Japanese type 94 pistol, watercolor paintings of the war, a dog tag, language books, and standard military gear.

In an earlier notice to the public, NPS said "due to the increased cost of electricity, American Memorial Park has raised the temperature in the Visitor Center, and turns off the air conditioners at night. Our artifacts have to be kept at a certain temperature and relative humidity range that, with these saving cuts, we cannot maintain."

The Northern Marianas was a key battleground between American and Japanese forces during World War II.

CNMI

From Page 1

Stabilization Fund section of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, for the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

"I am very concerned about this delay. Recovery Act money is supposed to protect the jobs of teachers and stimulate the local economy. Those goals won't be met until Secretary Duncan releases the funds," Sablan said in a statement yesterday.

"I hope that Secretary Duncan makes these issues a priority so that we can start spending money in the Northern Marianas and get our economy back on track," he added.

In their May 1 letter to Duncan, Sablan and Christensen said two weeks ago, the U.S. Department of Education began the process of releasing State Fiscal Stabilization Fund monies to the 50 states.

These monies were to provide a quick stimulus to local economies, protect teachers' jobs, and put the nation's schools on the path to energy efficiency.

"Mr. Secretary, we urge you to distribute the SFSF [State Fiscal Stabilization Fund] as rapidly as possible so that the citizens in the outlying areas can feel the same relief as their fellow Americans across the continental United States," Sablan and Christensen told Duncan.

The two delegates said this is the time when teachers and school administrators must begin planning for the next academic year, and plan the repairs, renovations and improvements that should take place.

"Some of our school systems have already created detailed plans for the monies they hope to receive. They are ready to be submitted, and we are optimistic that these plans, if executed, will provide great relief to our schools, preserve the jobs of teachers and other school employees, and help ensure that our students receive an education that will prepare them to meet the challenges of the new economy," Sablan and Christensen said.

Earlier, a turf battle between the Public School System and the Fitial administration ensued after Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, along with the governors of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam and American Samoa, wrote to President Obama in March, asking to let the Department of the Interior administer the stabilization funds, not the Department of Education. CNMI education officials want the U.S. Department of Education to administer the funds.

In consultation

CNMI Commerce Secretary Michael Ada said the U.S. Department of Education is still consulting with the Department of the Interior on how to administer the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund.

"The only application that has not been accepted—we submitted it—was the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, which is [around] $48 million. …The Department of Education received it, but they're in consultation with the Department of the Interior on how to administer the money. The CNMI has already submitted its application; we're just waiting for them to put that out and we'll know when we will receive the money," Ada told Saipan Tribune.

CNMI education officials said the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund section of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act requires that 81.8 percent of funding must go toward education, while the remaining 18.2 percent can go to public safety and other government services, including assistance for elementary and secondary education and public institutions of higher education. It can also be used for modernization, renovation, or repair of public school facilities and higher education facilities.

The Fitial administration said it would use the 18.2 percent discretionary fund, estimated to be about $8 million, to cover the payroll costs for government employees for the rest of the fiscal year.

BABAUTA

From Page 1

tions that the losing team may end up running as independent contenders.

Along with their respective running mates, Arnold I. Palacios and Galvin Deleon Guerrero, both camps were also presented the official ballot for the June 27 election.

GOP chair Ed Tenorio showed the ballot bearing the signatures of all four candidates, who pledged their commitment to "rally and support" the winning candidates in the primary election.

Via a coin toss, the names of Hofschneider and Palacios were assigned to the left side of the ballot, while Babauta and Deleon Guerrero were assigned to the right.

The GOP hopes the result of the June 27 primary will boost the party's chances in the November gubernatorial election.

Tenorio, during a joint caucus at Hafadai Beach Hotel yesterday, disclosed that it took the participants nearly two months to complete the "process" where a committee—composed of six key members each from both camps—was formed.

Guidelines and procedures for the primary polls were also formulated.

"We're almost there. We just need to clarify some of the sections [of the guidelines]," Tenorio said.

He said the party has no official platform yet as this would only be discussed once the results of the primary are known.

"We haven't seen any platforms of each camp. At this time, the GOP is focused on the success of the primary election," Tenorio said.

'Let there be no doubt'

Although they haven't seen each other's platform yet, Hofschneider believes that both have no major differences as they are both focused on what is good for the CNMI and its people.

"The GOP believes in the platform for the people. To sum it up, we're dealing with the same issues [and] same problems," Hofschneider said.

Babauta said "adjustments" can be made in the platforms depending on the outcome of the primary election.

For him, some "conditions of this administration are unacceptable."

To erase speculations and doubts on the sincerity of the two, Hofschneider and Babauta stood before the crowd, shook hands, and personally "vowed" to support whoever wins the primary.

"Let there be no doubt on the GOP. The only way to win this election is to pledge our support…and I am saying now that I and my family will give 100 percent support to John [Babauta] if he ever wins the primary. We're doing this for the people…and that's the only reason why we're running in the first place," Hofschneider said.

Babauta responded by pledging the same.

"I met Heinz on a couple of occasions and we talked about unity, about reuniting in this gubernatorial election. If ever he wins, I pledge to give my support. This is advancing the GOP," he said.

Both camps also vowed to ask their supporters to go out and vote for their chosen GOP candidates.

A. SAMOA

From Page 1

of the Sea International, which owns the local cannery, will open a plant in the U.S. mainland in order to remain viable and competitive in the global market.

Gov. Togiola Tulafono made the official announcement on the status of Samoa Packing on Saturday, May 2, following a meeting earlier in the day with officials of San Diego-based Chicken of the Sea.

Togiola said Samoa Packing began informing its 2,041 employees of the closure Saturday.

American Samoa Rep. Eni Faleomavaega was informed late Saturday afternoon by Chicken of the Sea about the shutdown.

Faleomavaega said he received a call from Chicken of the Sea's vice president Kevin McClain, who informed him of the company's decision.

"He [McClain] assured me it wasn't just the minimum wage issue but there were several factors that played into this," said Faleomavaega. "I really feel bad on what this will mean to many of our workers. I will work closely with our governor and Fono leaders to see what we can do to assist our workers."

Responding to media questions, Chicken of the Sea said, "Globally, companies are facing significant challenges to remain viable and competitive, and Chicken of the Sea International and Samoa Packing are no exception."

"The two companies have been partners with American Samoa since 1954 and have worked diligently for decades to ensure Chicken of the Sea remains competitive. In today's global economic environment, that is no longer possible," the statement said.

Togiola said the company will transition Samoa Packing to a cold storage facility, "while we pursue a transfer of the facility's lease to an outside business entity."

He said he asked the company if there is any chance for further discussions in ways American Samoa can help to keep operations here, but the answer was "no".

According to the governor, the company's "decision was final" as the costs of operating continue to increase in American Samoa.

"It's sad to say but there is practically nothing we can do at this point," he told reporters.

Togiola said he asked if the decision was due to the minimum wage increases, to which company officials replied that they believe the mandated minimum wage impact study [to be carried out by the Government Accountability Office] will provide a clear answer.

As for StarKist and its local Starkist Samoa operations, Togiola said there has been no word at all despite requests for meetings to discuss the company's future plans. However, he said he will continue to pursue this matter with StarKist officials.

Samoa Packing directly employs 2,041 individuals.

CPA annual audit delayed, violates bond agreement

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has been found violating its bond indenture agreement due to a delay in the completion of its financial audit.

Saipan Tribune learned that the agency failed to issue its annual report since 2005, which is a violation of the bond agreement.

However, CPA executive director Efrain F. Camacho reported to the board that the agency's Accounting will be aiding Engineering and Administration in getting these reports issued.

"CPA's annual financial audit is continuing. …While the report has been delayed and represents a violation of the bond covenant agreement, [the audit] is anticipated to be completed next month," the report stated.

During the last board meeting, Camacho said, the Office of the Inspector General raised concerns over some "unaccounted administrative costs" but the issue had already been addressed by the CPA management.

Saipan Tribune learned that CPA settled with the Federal Aviation Administration undocumented costs relating to past grant expenditures amounting to $1.2 million.

"This settlement of $1.2 million [highlighted] the need to improve controls, not only in accounting but for all departments in the CPA," the report said, adding that the agency has already began talks with an outside company for the scanning and electronic storage of files.

CPA said this would allow for much quicker recall of individual documents and provide better documentations.

In the first six months of the fiscal year, CPA posted an increase of $1.6 million in airport revenues but a decline of 12 percent in seaport revenues.

CPA, according to its management, remains and will remain financially vulnerable due to the continued downturn in the global and local economies.

Camacho said CPA continues to develop contingency plans.

The audited financial statements for fiscal year 2008 is expected to show that CPA again failed to meet the required bond ratios for airport and possibly the seaport.

"If this is the case, the bond trustee may require additional third-party expert studies to determine changes in operations that would allow CPA to meet the ratios. This is costly and time consuming for the agency," Camacho said.

He said the continuing subsidy of both Rota and Tinian operations also raises great concern. He said methods of operation must be reorganized to reduce cost or alternative revenues need to be found.

OPA: CPA *is not exempt from austerity measures, salary cap*

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Although the Commonwealth Ports Authority is an autonomous agency, it must still comply with any enabling law that requires austerity measures and obey any provisions on salary caps on employees and personnel, according to the Office of Public Auditor.

Public Auditor Michael Pai made the clarification after finding that the ports authority had paid seven individuals more than $50,000 per annum, in violation of the CNMI government salary cap.

The clarification was also in response to CPA executive director Efrain F. Camacho's request for OPA to review its audit findings on the agency.

OPA had found that CPA in 1996 paid its deputy director, comptroller, administrative assistant, and attorney positions above the government salary ceiling of $50,000 per annum.

CPA had argued that, based on 2 CMC 2122 under the CPA's powers and duties, the agency can employ agents, employees, or contracts for the services of a qualified executive director, specialist and experts and they may be exempted from the application of the Commonwealth Civil Service Act.

Pai said CPA is certainly entitled to pay attorneys and certified public accounts above the salary cap because this is now permitted by 1 CMC 8248. However, an administrative assistant cannot be paid in excess of $50,000 per year because it is not commensurate with the salaries paid to other administrative assistants in the government, he added.

Also, despite being an autonomous agency, CPA has to comply with austerity measures that the Legislature has explicitly made applicable to autonomous departments, OPA said.

Camacho said that, while the issue has been clarified with respect to the executive director and other specialists, it is still CPA's opinion that the agency's compliance with the austerity measures depend on the legislative language.

Camacho, in a letter to OPA dated April 23, said the Office of the Attorney General is the proper authority to interpret CNMI laws.

"The CPA being a public corporation, autonomous and self-sufficient, is not bound by austerity measures established by legislation for the CNMI government due to reduction in revenue collection by the government…instead, CPA is bound by austerity measures it may impose depending on its own financial position," Camacho said.

In FY2007, Camacho said CPA continued for several months the austerity Fridays until its financial position improved.

"It is undisputed that CPA did not receive any financial assistance from the CNMI government to alleviate its situation in restoring the full work hours per pay period," he said.

Saipan Tribune learned that CPA returned to full biweekly work hours when it was able to use its own funds.

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Safe Boating Week set May 17-22

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signs five proclamations yesterday including the declaration for CNMI Safe Boating Week (May 17-22). Looking on is Department of Public Safety Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela.

Gov. Benigno Fitial signed a proclamation yesterday declaring May 17-22 as CNMI Boating Week during a well-attended ceremony at the Governor's Office conference room.

The proclamation stated that while boating is a source of recreation, it could also be a dangerous sport. Records show that each year between 700 and 800 people die in boating-related accident in the U.S. mainland.

In 2008 alone, CNMI Boating Safety officers responded to three sunken vessels, a jetski accident, a vessel accident, a vessel on fire, a vessel aground, a kayak accident and a wakeboard accident.

It is recommended that wearing life jackets when operating or riding a boat is one of the precautionary measures everyone must practice.

"It is a simple task that can save lives," the proclamation stated.

Other basic things to do are to obey navigation rules such as refraining from drinking alcohol or taking drugs while operating a boat.

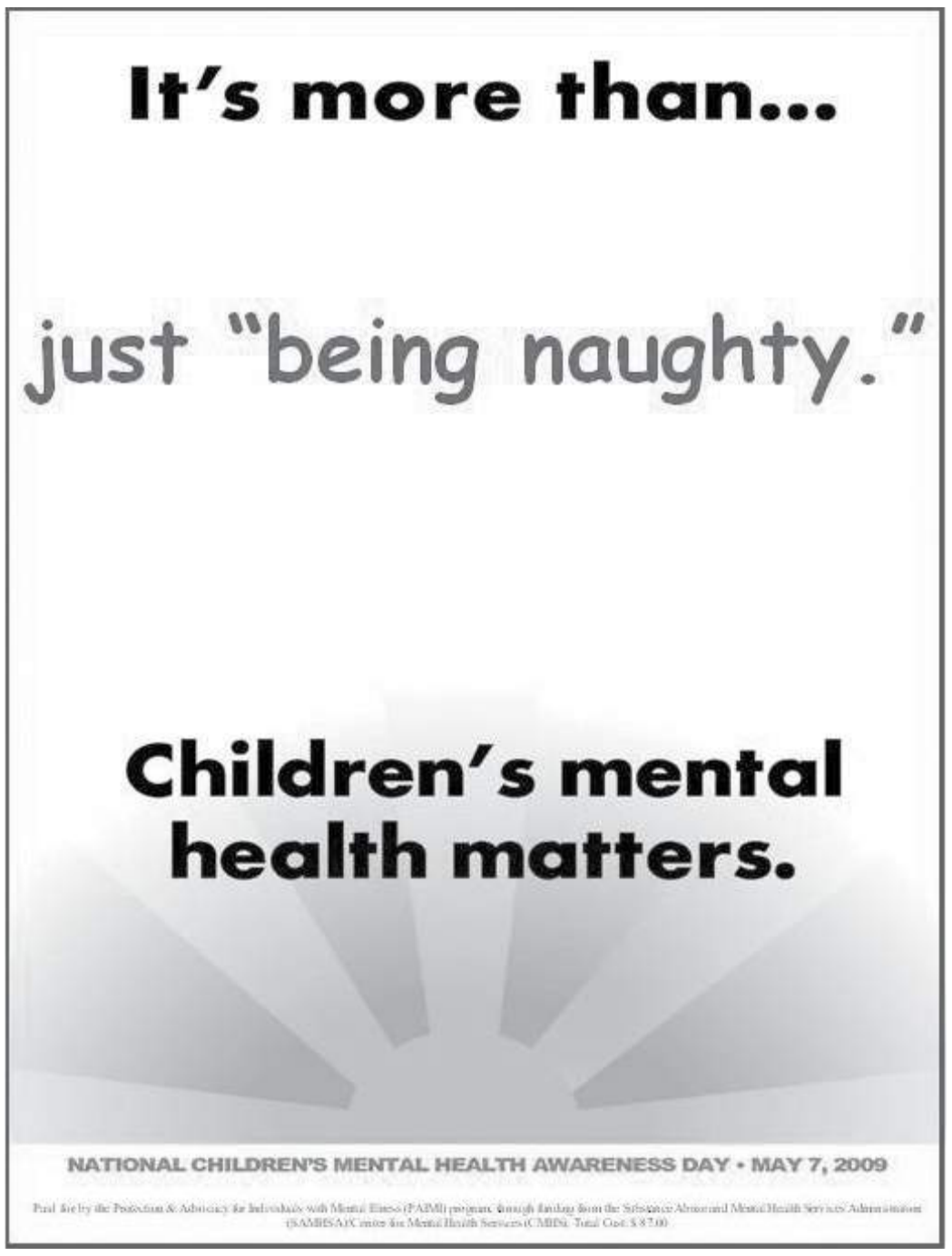
Since knowledge and skills are important in reducing human error and improving judgment, people are reminded to be aware of the risks and must take precautionary measure in protecting themselves, their friends and their family.

"This is why we must continue to spread the message of boating safety not only during Safe Boating Week, but also throughout the entire year," the proclamation stressed.

A total of 389 vessels were inspected by CNMI boating officers last year. They also did 400 hours of marine enforcement patrol and responded to nine distress calls, four drowning fatalities, nine near-drownings, and issued a total of 191 citations.

""I urge all citizens to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities and to practice "Boat Smart, Boat Safe," by ensuring that life jackets are worn at all times when boating and to practice safe boating habits," said Fitial in signing the proclamation.

The event was attended Department of Public Safety personnel led by Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***


It's more than...
just "being naughty."
Children's mental health matters.
NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY • MAY 7, 2009

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities
P.O. Box 506437, Saipan, MP 96950

Commercial Office Space for Rent

The NMI Council for the Humanities is soliciting formal proposals from businesses or individuals who have commercial office space for rent on Saipan. The Council is seeking an office space on the ground floor with approximately 1,000 square feet of space.

Other requirements include:

A. Common area maintenance
B. Air Conditioning
C. 24 hours water available
D. Available for rent for two to five years, with option for renewal
E. Trash Collection

The deadline to submit Proposal Packages are due on May 15, 2009 at 4:00pm. All Proposal Packages must be delivered to the NMI Council for the Humanities office, located at the Kings Plaza Commercial Building in Dan Dan, Saipan.

This announcement does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the Council in any way. The NMI Council for the Humanities is a private, non-profit organization affiliated with the U.S. National Endowment for the Humanities. For more information, please call us at 235-4785.

/s/ Dr. Debra T. Cabrera, Chair, NMICH
/s/ Antonio V. Deleon Guerrero, Executive Director, NMICH

House of Board of Regents chair is burglarized

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The two-story house of Charles V. Cepeda, chairman of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents, was burglarized early yesterday morning by unidentified suspects who made off with up to $5,000 worth of items.

Cepeda believes that the incident happened around 5:15am, when he woke up and found glasses of water in the couch, which he believes were left behind by the burglars.

Cepeda resides in a secure family compound in Finasisu with his wife, a son, and a house helper.

He said the suspects damaged the screen at the house's second floor window to get inside the house.

Cepeda said two laptops—an Acer Travel Mate and a Sony Vaio laptop worth over $4,000—and two bags were stolen from the house.

The suspects, he said, also tried to take off with his company vehicle, a Nissan Maxima, but failed when they had a hard time switching on the vehicle. The car's key was inside one of the black bags that were stolen.

Cepeda reported the incident to police around 5:50am.

Saipan Tribune learned that this is the first time Cepeda was victimized by burglars at his residence.

He is convinced that more than one suspect broke into the house and that the burglars may have connived with other suspects, particularly "a kid."

He said one of the suspects left behind a pair of 8 ½ size shoes. Two different sizes of footprints were also discovered inside the house.

The same boy, or kid, he said, most likely was the one who first entered the small opening on the second floor window.

Cepeda was just thankful that nobody at home—his wife, son, and house helper—were hurt during the incident.

"If this incident happened in a secure area like ours…as we are living in a family compound, there's no doubt it would happen anywhere else," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Cepeda later found that the same suspect/suspects also stole some items in the neighbors' garage for easy money. Another pair of shoes was found in the garage area of their neighbors.

"Times are hard, times are very difficult. Some people are desperate and I think they're doing this to provide these needs and to protect themselves. We were in the house and if this incident happened in our family compound which I can say is a secure area… pretty much it is also happening elsewhere. I hope these people who are struggling could soon be out from their struggles so they can have comfortable lives. I believe if they have income, jobs, or some kind of support…they will not break into other's residences to steal," Cepeda said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT VINCENT CRUZ MERFALEN IS NO LONGER CONNECTED WITH CNMI-USA INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COLLEGE (IBPC), NOR IT'S AFFILIATES AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF APRIL 15, 2009. ANY TRANSACTION ENTERED AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE WILL NOT BE HONORED BY MANAGEMENT AND WILL BE CONSIDERED NULL AND VOID.

PSS to recommend 'changes' in Praxis II scores

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com'
REPORTER

The Public School System and the Board of Education may change its passing score for Praxis II after all.

This comes after the PSS leadership and the board's Curriculum Instruction, and Assessment Committee met with officials of the Association of Commonwealth Teachers last week and the latter convinced PSS officials that such a move would be beneficial to the CNMI.

"I am happy to announce that the CIA committee of the Board of Education voted unanimously for the committee to reconsider the passing scores for Praxis II pursuant to ACT and COE leadership recommendations in the discussions," ACT president Betty Miller told public school teachers.

She said the "vote" was approved by all committee members, including the COE and members of her leadership team.

She said there were key points brought up prior to the vote. One of them was the PSS leadership's response to an ACT research showing that in 41 of the 47 Praxis II exams, the CNMI passing score was higher than the average of all states combined.

"Although the PSS leadership was initially resistant to an adjustment in scores, as it may appear we are lowering teacher standards, ACT asked for clarification as to exactly how the passing scores for Praxis II were initially determined. Reflected in the leadership report is a response indicating Praxis II passing scores were initially aligned with states in which residents of the CNMI are likely to relocate," Miller's notice to teachers read.

Given this information, she said ACT requested that "being as the initial cut scores were in no way based on teaching or learning standards, and 41 out of 47 CNMI cut scores were higher than the average of the states, we respectfully request that BOE reconsider the current CNMI cut scores for Praxis II exams to be more aligned with highly qualified teacher standards in the United States."

Saipan Tribune learned that there was also discussion on topics such as salary restoration and alternatives to Praxis for veteran teachers.

Although no formal action was taken on these matters at the meeting, Miller said it was the first time members of the BOE, COE leadership team, and teachers sat at the same table to have a conversation on the topic, which is the first step toward working collaboratively.

"ACT is hopeful for many future such meetings with open-minded members of the leadership who understand putting students first means being responsive to needs of teachers as well," Miller said.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BID
NMHC IFB09-001

This ad is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

OFFICE SPACE FOR NMHC IN ROTA

OPENING DATE OF BID: Tuesday, May 12, 2009 Time: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors through its Chairwoman of the Board, are soliciting competitive sealed bids from interested owners of commercial buildings in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

NMHC notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that, in any contracts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority and women business enterprises (MBE/WBE) are afforded full opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, gender, age, disability or national original.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up the Scope of Work at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, or at the Field Office in Songsong Village, Rota, during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday through Friday except CNMI holidays. Inquiries may be directed to Edith C. Fejeran, Office Manager, at telephone nos. 670.234-6866/7689 during regular business hours or Mark Manglona, Rota Field Office Representative, at 670.532-9410.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal in the best interest of the NMHC and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

MERCED M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation For Bid
PSS IFB 09-014

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, and delivery of laptops for WSR Elementary School. The Scope of Work is available at PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB09-014"** containing one (1) original with three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than May 26, 2009 at 10:00 a.m., at which time bids will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Questions shall be in writing addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement & Supply Officer or email to the following address: florian@saipan.com.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

Article 12 in today's Chamber meeting

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its general membership meeting today, May 6, 2009, at the Saipan Grand Hotel's Seaside Hall, with Rep. Ramon Tebuteb as the guest speaker.

Tebuteb will present some alternative thoughts about the Article XII issue. The Chamber in its last meeting hosted the group Citizens for Change to Article 12, which is pushing for the abolition of Article 12 in 2011.

Section 805 of the Covenant allows the CNMI to revisit its land alienation restrictions 25 years after the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement in 1986. That 25-year period will end in 2011.

Tebuteb

"We believe it is important that the public understand all sides of this important issue," said Kyle Calabrese, Chamber executive director.

Registration and lunch will begin at 11:30am, and the meeting will begin at noon. As usual, the meeting is $15 for members, $20 for guests of members, and $25 for general public.

"We will also present the recipients of the Chamber's two scholarships for Northern Marianas Trades Institute's students. Please be sure to join us and congratulate these two individuals," said Calabrese. ***(SCC)***

Live fire training on Farallon set

The Emergency Management Office announced yesterday that the U.S. military would be conducting live fire releases on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla from May 6 to 9, from 9am to 2pm.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla Training Area (R7201) on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is strongly advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and date indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO's Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. ***(EMO)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 6, 1999

Teno backs CUC

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio said yesterday he would fight plans that would seek to reduce existing power rates for commercial and residential use in fear that such move would further hurt the local coffers by subsidizing the utility company. The Senate has put forward a legislation seeking to cut by an average of 25 percent the cost of electricity as a way of helping residents and businessmen cope with the worsening economic conditions in the islands, a proposal strongly opposed by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation. "I want to make it very specific that I am not supporting the reduction because we have to be very mindful that CUC will have to continue to operate," the governor said. "We don't want to see the government subsidizing CUC."

Court rejects Senate reapportionment

The U.S. District Court yesterday upheld the Senate composition of three senators from each island and denied the complaint earlier filed by former Representative Torres and lawyer Jeanne Rayphand. The "one person, one vote" provided for in the Fourteenth Amendment is not a fundamental right for citizens in the CNMI. In the decision prepared by District Judges Alex R. Munson and John S. Unpincgo, and Senior Circuit Judge J. Clifford Wallace, the court concluded that the U.S. Congress was exercising its valid authority when it agreed to the NMI Covenant negotiators to deny Saipan voters the guarantee of the "one person, one vote" rights.

May 6, 2002

Fire hits Puerto Rico dump

Fire broke out at the Puerto Rico dump in what was considered one of the biggest blaze within the decades-old dumpsite that prompted emergency response teams from the government-including Public Works Secretary Juan S. Reyes-to rush to the site. The fire lasted about four hours even as firefighters from the Department of Public Safety's Division of Fire responded to the scene. The Emergency Management Office also responded to the alarm. Piles of trash turned to ashes, but it was not immediately clear if these included hazardous wastes. Household trash is normally segregated from metals and hazardous wastes, but dump insiders said that trash may be brought up the mountain of garbage unnoticed.

No hazard pay for dumpsite workers?

As fire big enough to require the attention of emergency response teams struck the Puerto Rico dump, some Solid Waste Division employees stationed at the dumpsite complained that they were not being entitled to hazard pay. "I just hope we're paid the hazard pay. According to the big boss, this position does not require the hazard pay," an employee said. "Even though the position is inside the dump, [officials say] we don't deserve the hazard pay." Public Works Secretary Juan S. Reyes cannot be reached for interview on the allegation over the weekend. The mere fact that they stay at the dumpsite alone makes the job hazardous, the dump worker said. "No buts, ors [and] ands. Once you enter the gate, it's already hazardous."

May 6, 2003

OPA clears Cabrera of wrongdoing

A draft Office of the Public Auditor report has cleared Rep. Gloria DLC. Cabrera of any wrongdoing when she was photographed by the *Marianas Variety* playing poker at a Middle Road establishment. The two-page report obtained by *Saipan Tribune* said that Cabrera did not violate any provisions of the Government Ethics Code nor any other Commonwealth laws related to fraud, waste, or abuse of public funds. When asked to comment, though, Cabrera declined, saying she will only do so as soon as the House Ethics Committee, which is investigating the matter, issues its report and recommendations.

Will it be expulsion for Atalig?

The Senate will convene to vote on convicted Rota senator Ricardo S. Atalig's expulsion—instead of suspension—in today's scheduled session at 1pm. The Committee on Rules and Procedure report recommending Atalig's expulsion was reportedly ready for signatures as of yesterday. Committee Chairman and Senate Floor Leader Joaquin G. Adriano expressed confidence there will be enough numbers to proceed with the expulsion action, which requires two-thirds or six votes from the Senate membership.

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IT&E POWER 99 PEPSI

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370, SAIPAN, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
IFB 09-015

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, of **Laptops and LCD Projectors** for classroom teachers, Counselors and program managers. The Scope of Work is available at PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB 09-015"** containing one (1) original with Three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd Floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **May 28, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.**, at which time bids will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Questions shall be in writing addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement & Supply officer or Email to the following address: **florian@saipan.com**

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370, SAIPAN, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
IFB 09-016

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, of **Laptops for Ladera International School of Saipan**. The Scope of Work is available at PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB 09-016"** containing one (1) original with Three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd Floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **May 29, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.**, at which time bids will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Questions shall be in writing addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement & Supply officer or Email to the following address: **florian@saipan.com**

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Checking in on the economy

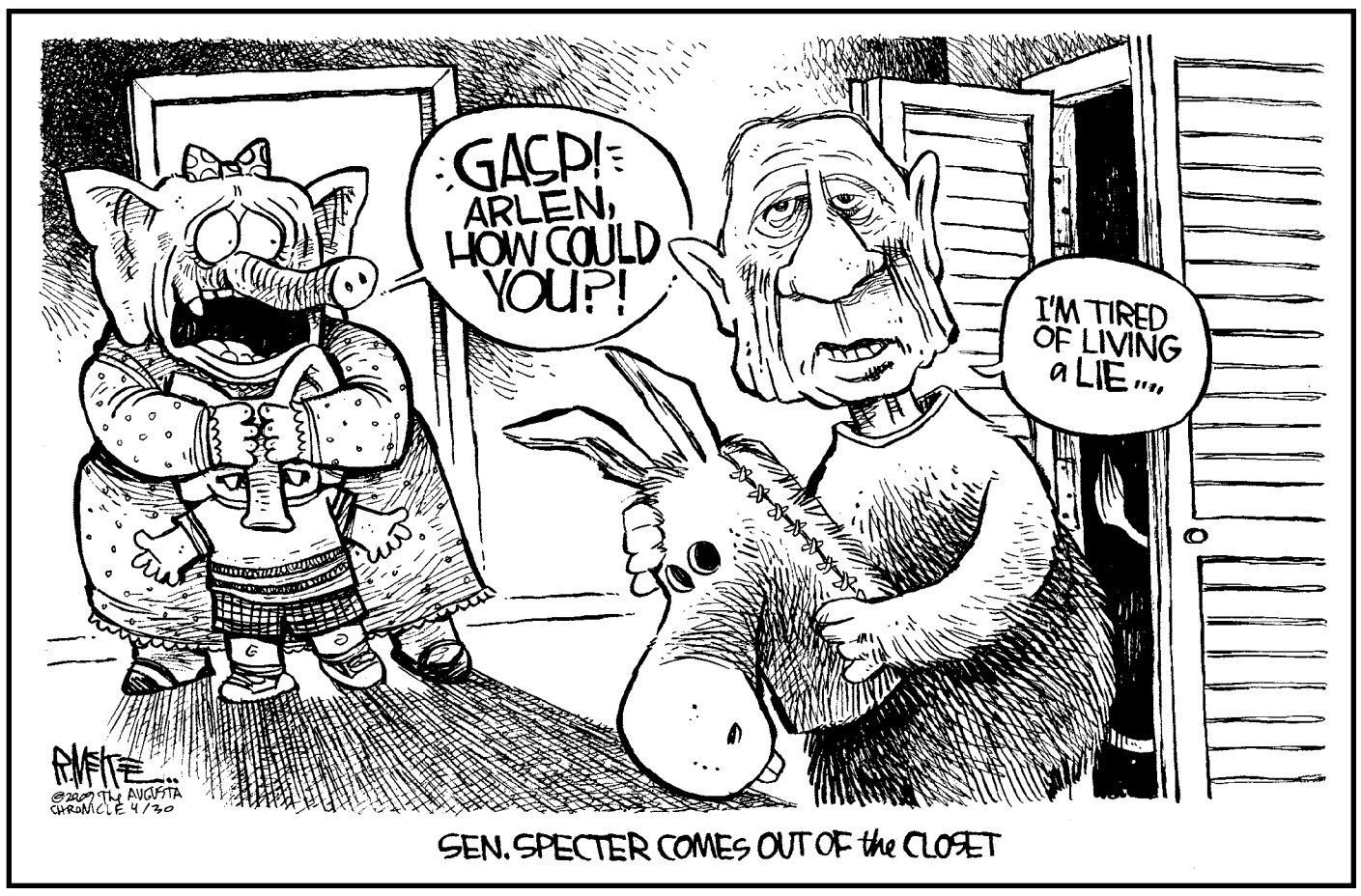
The recent smattering of good economic news—the stock market is up more than 25 percent from its low point in March, housing starts have increased and consumer confidence is finally on the rise—has left some observers turning to the next phase of recovery. As reassuring as it is to have a few up arrows, there is a long way to go before anything resembling a sustainable recovery can be proclaimed. Far-reaching governmental action on the fiscal, monetary and financial sector fronts has been critical in putting a floor on this downturn. But a dramatic and steady "V-shaped" recovery can hardly be counted upon, given the many economic challenges remaining. The U.S. economy contracted 6.1 percent during the first quarter of the year. The International Monetary Fund projects that the global economy will contract by 1.3 percent this year and remain sluggish in 2010, and it predicts a total of $4 trillion in credit write-downs over the next two years. The message is depressingly clear: The world is not yet out of the woods.

One of the lessons of past recessions is that a premature attempt to return to business as usual can abort a fledgling recovery. Talk of a second stimulus package has subsided, but Washington may have to spend more to prop up the economy. Other countries, particularly those with more room to borrow, will have to step up as well. The Federal Reserve faces the challenge of using its many tools to bring down interest rates while preparing an exit strategy for when the risk of inflation starts to outweigh the risk of deflation. Even if officials do everything right, unemployment, currently at 8.5 percent, is likely to move into double-digit territory before heading down.

And then there is the central question that has yet to be addressed: What will be the driver of growth? For decades, the world has depended on the U.S. consumer to gobble up goods, helping to fuel global growth. But U.S. household wealth has fallen $13 trillion, or 20 percent; it is unlikely that consumers could return to prior levels of spending even if they learned nothing from this crisis. Over time the United States will have to increase its investment rate and exports, while countries that have been saving too much, particularly China, will have to find ways to increase domestic demand. So far old patterns persist, with the United States leading the way in borrowing its way out of this recession. Borrowing and saving nations have yet to come close to an understanding of how this imbalanced relationship will change.

Over time, again, the United States and other high-borrowing countries will have to set in place fiscal plans to get their debt levels under control while being careful not to implement the contractive policies before the recovery is stable. Necessary spending reductions and tax increases should be staggered and phased in gradually so as not to be destabilizing. Timing, and a new global grand bargain, will be key in securing a lasting recovery. Let's hope the good news keeps coming, but let's not underestimate the challenges ahead.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post



The Easier Game

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

Everyone's an expert
in this game we know quite well
First school. Then college. Then a job.
Don't question. Don't rebel.

In time, once you discover
that in this game no one wins
You'll run to play the harder game
and then the fun begins

You'll find no lack of coaches
saying "do this thing or that"
Be wary though of sideline stars
who've never held a bat

You'll choke, strike out and fumble
ill-prepared you won't know why
Take heart, it's just a different game
the old rules don't apply

New rules. New game plan. New rewards
New way of keeping score
In time you'll see: with greater risk
the payoff's often more

But some, disheartened, give up hope
and blame it on fatigue
Returning to familiar fields
back in the minor leagues

So choose it if you wish but
heed these words from one who knows
That just because you're scoring high
don't mean you're in the pros!

In a recent coaching session, a client and I discussed the "expensive" outcomes of some of the business risks she's taken. I comforted her (only partly, I'm sure) by reminding her that years ago she chose to play a different game than the average individual. Consequently, whatever outcomes she experienced (whether "good" or "bad"), were naturally, and by necessity going to be different than those of the average person, who chooses to play an "easier" game.

The Saipanpreneur Project

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

Society encourages us to play the easier game. The easier game is called "Employee for Life." If you opt for the security of a regular job, you can pay the bills that will keep the utilities on, keep the roof over your head, pay the car note, maintain your credit and keep everything working great! And, by the criteria of the easier game, you're high in the rankings if you manage to keep things in relative equilibrium.

However, the game of "Succeed on My Own Terms" is naturally a harder game for the simple reasons that 1) fewer people play it, 2) the strategies and rules aren't as well known, 3) the rewards, and thus the risks, are greater. Few utility companies, landlords, banks and creditors will be supportive while you work out the kinks in your strategy for playing the "harder game." So, if you choose to play it, you've got to be prepared for greater tests of your commitment, patience, creativity, resolve and stamina. It's just the nature of the game.

So, for you passion seekers who've opted for the harder game, don't be misled by the apparent high scores (car, clean credit, working telephone) that your friends are enjoying. Remember, you chose a different game, so you'll have to learn to rank yourself based on other criteria (freedom, purpose, fulfillment, creative expression) while you work out the details of your strategy! But rest assured, the rewards will ultimately make it all worthwhile!

■ ■ ■ ■

***Note**: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that said good things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!*

Note: Fans and followers of *Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan* may now find copies at Bookseller Bookstore in the Joe-Ten Plaza in Susupe or on Amazon.com. Hurry, there's a limited supply!

***Note**: For more tips on overcoming your fears, acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!*

■ ■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit*. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.*

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Depression

By STEPHEN B. SMITH
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Stephen B. Smith is the Accreditation, Language Arts, and National Forensic League coordinator for the Public School System Central Office.

A time for seriosity—you like that word? It fits the times. Slow economy, increase in homelessness, increase in divorce rates, increase in business failures, social unrest, strange alliances in the political sphere: it's a helluva time, definitely a time for seriosity. A byproduct of times like these is of course depression. I was in a bar recently and found even the bartender, Jack, to be depressed, and that one's against the rules. It's a bartender's job to make the rest of us feel better, or at least not alone. And, then a question was posed to me…

"Hey, Steve, I know you're taking courses in Psychology, whaddya think is going to be the No. 1 problem that psychologists are going to have to deal with in the years ahead?" Kind of a general question, but a valid one, at least in my opinion. I thought about it for a minute. There are a lot of things that counselors and psychologists have to deal with on a daily basis. I already mentioned a few of them above: homelessness, failed marriages and businesses, et cetera. There are lots more of course: veteran's problems as they return from war, racism, ethnocentrism, gambling, domestic abuse, the list is long. But all of these things have one thing in common: They all breed depression. Still, even that doesn't answer the question, the underlying one: What is the number one causes of causes as it relates to depression?

The answer for me has to be substance abuse. Let's look at it. The way I see it, your local neighborhood dispenser of illegal pharmaceuticals is responsible for a plethora of miseries: broken homes, child and spousal abuse, petty and felonious crime, physical ailments almost too numerous to catalog, mental disorders some of which may not even have names yet—and—of course depression. Well, actually all of those things and more lead to somebody's depression.

Our prisons are full and the cost to the taxpayer is enormous. The supreme irony is that the producers of our chemical mega-industry, that which at least indirectly, fills all of those prison cells, are almost never mentioned in the news. They need to be; they need to be persecuted and prosecuted. But, that's a story for another day.

The rock star who is caught with a pound of marijuana in the back seat is mentioned in the news. The mom or dad who left their personal stash out where their teenage son or daughter could find it is mentioned. Occasionally, a politician whose sins are so egregious not even his friends in the Legislature can save him—or her—are mentioned. And these are the ones who are living their lives at the expense of the state. And, while they are so incarcerated, their families are suffering from depression. Then there are the medical problems.

President Obama is trying to get us all universal health care. I posit the thought, that if there was no substance abuse in the country, we'd probably be able to afford universal health care.

Oh yeah, we the people need to rethink how we deal with these issues. Psychologists are going to be more than just busy dealing with them in the years ahead. The depressed state of the economy is nothing when compared to the depressed states of mind of the many people afflicted by all the pressures that we experience on a daily basis.

I sincerely believe that all of us need to slow down. We need to employ well thought out choices and treat these problems—and their causes— now and fast and summarily. I am making my contribution right now. I have in my pocket a phone number. It's the number of a psychologist. I am going to give it to Jack. My bartender has to be "not" depressed. It's not acceptable that I have to deal with my number one unlicensed counselor, my bartender, when he's even worse off even than I am!

Letters to the Editor

Missing '60th Anniversary' video

Editor's Note: Because of the length of this letter, it is being published as a four-part series.

Second of a four-part series

The following is an eight-point summary of relevant information we've gathered concerning the overall mater, and of what we either don't know or are unsure of about it:

1. As stated on page 40 of the official commemorative program booklet*, the 60th Anniversary Steering Committee established "two archival oral history projects" to be conducted during June 12-17. Together, they were called "The Oral History and Story Telling Project (OHP; STP)." The OHP component was to emphasize one-on-one interviews with veterans, conducted at various sites on the islands. The STP portion, which would consist of the Campfire Chat, "provides an opportunity for veterans to gather informally to recount their memories and impressions of the war." The "product" if this dual project would be videotape documentation—records of the "filmed chats" which would be of "broadcast quality." Copies of these films would be placed at "the CNMI Library, the [CNMI] Museum [of History and Culture], the [Northern Marianas] College, and at the [NMI] Council for the Humanities." The project was "made possible by support from the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities, a nonprofit, private corporation funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities." Whether the Humanities Council's "support" for the project included any funding per se was not stated.

2. To help it plan, coordinate, and implement the overall 60th anniversary commemoration, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands drew upon the Arizona Memorial Museum Association. In this connection an AMMA representative who resides on Saipan served as co-chair of the 60th of the Anniversary Committee. As stated in the program booklet's inside cover, AMMA's "primary purpose" is "to aid the National Park Service in interpret[ing] events at sites such as the American Memorial Park, Garapan, Saipan." It does so via "educational outreach programs, [via the] publishing of materials relating to each park, [and by] making materials such as books and other memorabilia available." Through its sales of such items it "raise[s] monies for the Park Service to continue its missions…"; all sales [also] benefit these ceremonies [specifically, the 60th's] and the NPS mission in the Mariana Islands as a whole." The AMMA "fund[s] and support[s] research programs as well." (Note: Per page 40 of the mentioned program booklet, the Oral History and Story Telling Project films were to become "an original historical document, a new primary source for further research.") Any financial support that the AMMA may have provided for or committed to the 60th anniversary—prior to it, and/or afterward—could presumably have been either general (all-purpose; discretionary), specifically designated, or allocated some designated funds for the production of the broadcast quality documentation. (See AMMA "hired," and AMMA "held the rights," in point three and four below.) Proceeds from sales of any 60th anniversary films that AMMA may have owned and may still own could, presumably, have eventually been used, and might still be used, for mission-purposes mentioned above: educational outreach; research; etc.

3. According to communication from the media (film) department of the Northern Mariana College to Mr. Boothe last year: (a) the department's students did film the Campfire Chat; (b) the department then gave its footage of that event to a company on Saipan to produce one or more videos (VHSs or DVDs); and (c) that company had been "hired" by the Arizona Memorial Museum Association (possibly in conjunction with the American Memorial Park-NPS) to produce the video(s) in question, from the media department's footage. Boothe and I did not try to determine if any written contracts existed for purposes of this production, since our basic immediate focus was on determining whether a Campfire Chat video did in fact exist and, if it did, on how it might be obtained.

4. That production company was, and may still be, headed by a Mr. "Butch" (Bert?) Wolf. In connection with the June 12-17 events, his working title was Executive Producer in Charge of the 60th Anniversary Documentary or Documentaries—or words similar to these. Also, in its communications with Mr. Boothe, the media department indicated that it believed Mr. Wolf's company gave the video(s) it produced about the 60th to the AMMA's representative—this being the individuals who, as mentioned in point two, had served as co-chair of the 60th Anniversary Committee. The media department also told Boothe that Mr. Wolf had indicated to it—the department—that he believed the AMMA "held the rights" to the produced materials, that is, to the assembled/completed video[s] that he had given to the AMMA/co-chair. (These "rights" could presumably also apply to unassembled footage of the 60th that the company might still have.)

5. Mr. Boothe and I do not know how much of the overall Oral History and Story Telling Project was "made possible" by the NMI Council for the Humanities (see point 1 above), on the one hand, and how much was made possible by—including but not limited to being materially enabled or facilitated by—the AMMA, on the other. That is, we do not know the relative degree to which, and the areas as well as ways in which, each of these entities helped make that project and its components, aspects, etc. possible, financially and otherwise. Nor do we know the extent and nature of any other entities' possible contributions.

6. Communications from the media department to Mr. Boothe indicated, last fall, that it would (a) forward his inquiry about the existence and whereabouts of any Campfire Chat footage—footage that Mr. Wolf's company had received from the department (Point 3 above)—directly with Mr. Wolf, and that when it did so it would also (b) request that he directly contact Mr. Boothe in that regard. After considerable time had passed and no communications were received from Mr. Wolf, Boothe made repeated efforts—all through the media department to which he had directed his inquiry—to obtain a response from him. None of these efforts yielded any reply, from Wolf to Boothe. This situation has not changed.

To be continued.

Ted Palmer, Ph.D.
Sacramento, Calif., USA

**60th Anniversary of the World War II Battle of Saipan and Tinian Commemorative Program*. June 12-17, 2004. Arizona Memorial Association; National Park Service; CNMI, 2004.

On Teacher Appreciation Week

It's hard passing up the opportunity to say *Si Yuus Maase* to our teachers in both public and private schools. These are the dedicated group whose specialty they convey generously with enthusiasm to our children between Kindergarten and high school.

Over 56 years ago, I met my first teacher at what's now Sister Remedios. I remember her name as Madre Pia. She wrote the lyrics and music to the song *Hago Inan I Lañget*. I still sing that song today and miffed at artists between here and Guam who never did justice to my teacher's original music composition.

I salute my teachers (many of whom have gone to claim their trophies in that goldmine in the sky) and the few who are still around. Individually and collectively, they have molded my character, worked on my academic development facing the challenges they had to endure as teachers in the late '50s through the '60s.

I learned my written Chamorro in grammar school. We started English in the third grade. *Si Yuus Maase* to Nan Che (Merced Torres) for her tutorship in the written vernacular and the late Mrs. Andrea C. Tenorio for her patience as she started us out with our first lessons in English. I started appreciating music when I met Mr. Frank Chong. He was one grand teacher who took us through the ropes, daily.

Most of our teachers understood the need to guide us through rudimentary lessons. None of them wasted time. They certainly understood the difficulty our parents had to endure when the naval administration turned the NMI over to Interior. One of my teachers stood out in mind (she paid for my tuna sandwich and Kool Aid) at a class Christmas Party. Eh, I went home announcing that I ate tuna sandwich. I've eaten it before but never knew it's called a sandwich.

Those were the tough days in destitution. Many of our parents were fired from work when the Navy left the island. Yes, it was back to subsistence lifestyle, uprooted from the convenience of a money economy. We were very poor. Everything I wore was donated—shoes, pants and shirts. So poor that on graduation day, I bought myself a pair of safety shoes. You know, the one with a metal plate in front. My dad, an auto mechanic, thought I bought it for him. I said, "No way. That's my graduation shoes, sir!" Safety shoes?

Indeed, my prayers to those who are no longer in our midst, including those who are still with us. *Bien felis para hamyo. Ni ñgaian `nai siña bai` nanalo i likido na animon miyo yan dedikasion pot para in` kreansa ham fitme gi kareran mame antes. Si Yuus Maase!*

John S. DelRosario Jr.
As Gonno, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. South winds 10 to 15 mph becoming southeast Thursday.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Palau	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Rain	▲85	▼78
Kosrae	Showers	▲89	▼77
Majuro	Rain	▲82	▼79

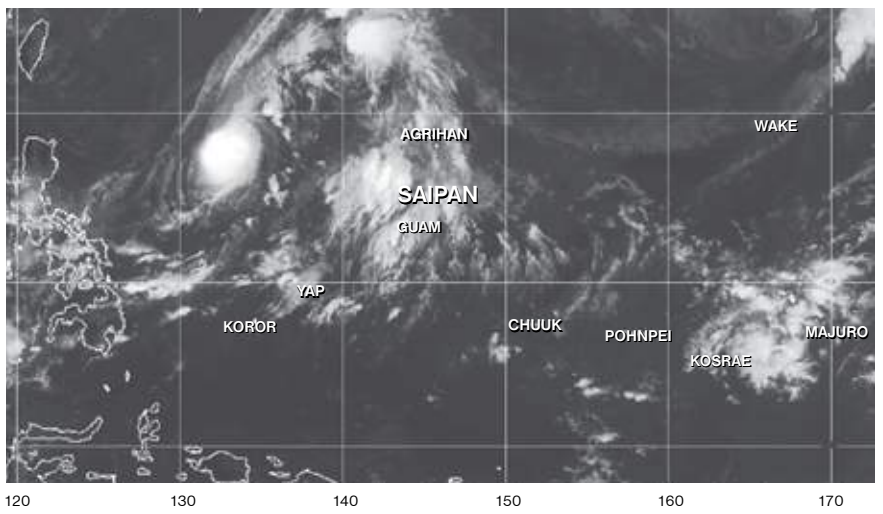
Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲59	▼52
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲89	▼64
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲82	▼71
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼73
London	Partly Sunny	▲68	▼46
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲78	▼60
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼76
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲62	▼48
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼72
New York	Cloudy	▲67	▼55
Osaka	Rain	▲68	▼59
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲63	▼47
Pusan	Cloudy	▲70	▼60
Rome	Cloudy	▲70	▼53
Salem	Rain	▲61	▼45
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲64	▼51
Seoul	Sunny	▲84	▼55
Tokyo	Showers	▲68	▼61
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	▲67	▼58

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
5:16 AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
12:10 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
6:27 PM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Kujira is currently centered at 18N133E and moving northeastward at 18 mph. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are found within 100 miles of the center of the typhoon and scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found farther out between 20N and 24N from 135E to 139E. For more detailed information, see JTWC bulletins issued under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW. A weak circulation is centered near Iwo To at 24N141E. Scattered showers and and a few thunderstorms are found within 100 miles of the center. Convergent south winds are triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over the Marianas within an area bounded by a line from 21N145E to 17N140E to 13N145E to 11N142E to 13N147E to 20N147E back to 21N145E and also over Yap within 100 miles of a line extending southeastward from 12N136E to 9N140E. A cold front arcs southwestward from 25N172E to west of Wake Island at 18N160E then continues westward as a diffuse cold front to 20N150E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found within 125 miles of the cold front east of 170E and along and within 75 miles north of the front west of 170E. A surface trough arcs northward from 4N162E to 11N163E. Convergence near and to the east of the trough is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Kwajalein within an area bounded by a line from 11N170E to 7N164E to 5N164E to 5N168E back to 11N170E. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southeast of Majuro within an area bounded by a line from 8N180 to 4N172E to 2N180 back to 8N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:52 AM	6:36 PM
Thursday	5:51 AM	6:36 PM
Friday	5:51 AM	6:36 PM
Saturday	5:50 AM	6:37 PM
Sunday	5:50 AM	6:37 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:04 PM	3:24 AM
Thursday	4:56 PM	4:03 AM
Friday	5:50 PM	4:43 AM
Saturday	6:44 PM	5:26 AM
Sunday	7:38 PM	6:12 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 12, 2009

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	2,3,4,5,6
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 099	5:00am	7:35am	Daily
NW 078	8:20am	1:30pm	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily
Guam-Narita			
NW 73	4:10pm	7:00pm	Daily
NW 81	3:55pm	6:55pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
OZ 119	4:00am	6:40am	1,4,6
Guam-Osaka			
NW 79	4:45pm	7:35pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:20am	11:05am	Daily
Guam-Nagoya			
NW 23	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Incheon			
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 119	4:00am	11:25am	1,4,6 via Osaka
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm	Daily
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:20am	6:50am	1,4,5,7
Saipan-Shanghai			
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am	2,6
Rota-Guam			
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7
Guam-Palau			
CO 953	7:40pm	8:40pm	1,7
CO 893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3,5
Palau-Manila			
CO 893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3,5
Guam-Manila			
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am	1,2,4,6,7
Nagoya-Manila			
NW 71	8:40pm	11:55pm	Daily
Incheon-Hongkong			
OZ 721	9:20am	12:00pm	Daily
OZ 723	7:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
OZ 7173	8:00pm	10:50pm	5,7
Narita-Manila			
NW 1	7:00pm	10:55pm	Daily

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,2,3,4,7
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:20am+1	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 100	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily
Narita-Guam			
NW 74	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
NW 82	10:30am	3:10pm	Daily
Osaka-Saipan			
OZ 120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7
Osaka-Guam			
NW 80	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:20am+1	Daily
Nagoya-Guam			
NW 24	10:00am	2:30pm	Daily
Incheon-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7 via Osaka
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3,4,6,7
Shanghai-Saipan			
FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6
Palau-Guam			
CO 954	2:30am	5:25am	1,2
CO 892	2:35am	5:30am	4,6
Manila-Palau			
CO 892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3,5
Manila-Guam			
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Manila-Nagoya			
NW 72	6:30am	11:05am	Daily
Hongkong-Incheon			
OZ 724	12:30am	4:50am	Daily
OZ 7183	12:45am	5:05am	1,4,6
OZ 722	1:30pm	5:45pm	Daily
Manila-Narita			
NW 2	7:45am	12:40pm	Daily

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Free training for deaf, hard of hearing

The deaf/hard of hearing community in the CNMI is invited to attend a free training called "Understanding Leads to Success."

The training is scheduled for May 11, from 1pm to 4pm, and May 12, from 8am to 4pm, at the Northern Marianas College, Bldg. A-13.

Training topics include Deaf Culture, Differentiating Characteristics, Modes of Communication, and Accommodations.

Instructors Cathy McLeod and Mary Morrison, both from PEPNet- West will be on island to conduct the training.

To register, contact Ray Diaz at 664-7002 at the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities or Terrie Fejerang at 671-735-2489 or e-mail at terrie.fejarang@guamceddars.org .

The event is sponsored by the Post-Secondary Education Programs Network, National Center on Deafness, California State University, Northridge, and facilitated by the University of Guam Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Service, in collaboration with the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities and NMC University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. ***(PR)***

NAVAL EXERCISE

Lt. j.g. Andrew Jacobsmeyer, left, of Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron 7, discusses training plans with Lt. Arnault Grimald, of the visiting French frigate Vendemiaire, during an exercise simulating vessel boarding, search and seizure in Barrigada, Guam, on May 1.

JESSE LEON GUERRERO/JOINT REGION MARIANAS PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Military ID card personnel visit

This is to let all military identification cardholders and all concerned that the 9th Mission Support Command ID Card personnel will be on Saipan to issue new or renewal of Military ID card. They will be at the Army Reserve Center on Saipan on May 18-22, 2009. Their hours are from 8am-6pm.

For any questions or for further information, call Ruth Coleman at the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs at 664-2650 or Maj. Greg Sablan at the Army Reserve Center at 322-6671. ***(PR)***

MINA membership meeting tomorrow

The 2009 Mariana Islands Nature Alliance general membership meeting will be held tomorrow, May 7, 2009, from 5pm to 8pm, at the 13 Fishermen's Pavilion on Beach Road in Garapan. We would like to invite all of our members as well as the public to join us, and learn about the opportunities and challenges facing MINA in 2009, as well as our accomplishments in 2008. ***(PR)***

SSHS reports cards out

To all parents/legal guardians of Saipan Southern High School students: Mid-progress reports are scheduled to be picked up on Wednesday, May 13, 2009, from 4:40pm to 7pm. Teachers will be available in their classrooms for parents/ legal guardian visit. All students will be released at 1pm. ***(PR)***

OES PTSA meeting set

The PTSA Officers of Oleai Elementary School would like to inform the parents and guardians of Oleai Elementary School students that there will be a PTSA meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, 6:15pm in the school cafeteria. Everyone is encouraged to attend. ***(PR)***

Eucon holds art exhibit by non-Art students

Eucon International School and College is holding its first art exhibit by non-Art students up to Saturday, May 9. The exhibit is open to the public. Venue of the exhibit is the Agape Auditorium at the Eucon campus. ***(PR)***

John Gonzales Live schedule for May 2009

May 6, 2009 ***LIVE*** – Replays 5/10 and 5/11 at 7-8pm

Highlighting Teachers Appreciation & Teachers as Key to Student Success

PSS teachers

May 13, 2009 ***LIVE*** – Replays 5/17 and 5/18 at 7-8pm

Emergency Medical Services for children and adults

Firemen Thomas I. Manglona, Maynard Duenas, Frank Sablan

May 20, 2009 **LIVE** @ 7-8 pm – Replays 5/24 and 5/25 at 7-8 pm

Living with Cancer in the CNMI & Marianas March Against Cancer

Cancer survivors and MMAC 2009 representative

May 27, 2009 ***LIVE*** – Replays 5/31 and 6/1 at 7-8pm

PSS stimulus funding opportunities

PSS Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, EdD., PSS Federal Programs Tim Thornburgh, and PSS Financial Consultant Ed S. Tenorio

Shows air on KSPN Channel 2. ***LIVE*** Text: 285-META; ***LIVE*** Call: 287-4230; E-mail: johngonzales@pticom.com. ***(PR)***

Townhall meeting in Kagman

Kagman Komunidat Association is inviting the public to its second townhall meeting. Voters can get to know the Republican candidates who will face off in the Republican primary in June. Juan Babauta and Galvin Deleon Guerrero's townhall meeting will be on Thursday, May 7, at the Kagman Community Center at 7pm.

The purpose of the townhall meetings is for voters to stay informed and gather information from the candidates by asking the candidates questions and listening to the candidates' platforms on the economy, Article 12, tourism, military buildup, crime, gambling, etc. Come and get to know the candidates before voting. ***(PR)***

Memorial Day meetings

May 25, 2009 is Memorial Day, during which the CNMI will be paying tribute to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who have passed on. This is to let all Memorial Day Committee members and all interested in being a part of the committee, that we will begin to meet every Tuesday at 9am starting on April 14, 2009, at the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs on Capitol Hill building 1364. Everyone is encouraged and invited to attend. ***(PR)***

Puengin Inetnon resumes this Friday

Puengin Inetnon will resume this Friday, May 8, at 4:30pm-10pm at the Kagman Community Center Parking Lot. Puengin Inetnon is Kagman's Friday Night Market for food, drinks, snacks, clothing, arts and crafts. It will be held every government payday Friday. The Kagman Komunidat Association is looking for vendors to sell produce and fish due to popular demand by customers. Other vendors are also invited. Call the Kagman Post Office at 256-POST or email kagmankomunidatassociation@gmail.com for more info. ***(PR)***

Kagman Flea Market on Saturday

The Kagman Saturday Flea Market will resume this Saturday, May 9, at 8am at the Kagman Community Center Parking Lot. It will be held every government payday Saturday. Individuals can sell their used items for only $5 and will be provided with a tent and table. Come and sell your used item at the fastest growing village in the Marianas. Interested individuals can call the Kagman Post Office at 256-POST or email kagmankomunidatassociation@gmail.com for more info. ***(PR)***

Marianas High School schedule

May 4-15 Advanced Placement Exams

May 18-22 PSS SBA Tests

May 25 No classes (Memorial Day)

June 11 Graduation Ceremony

June 15 End of 4th Quarter

For questions and concerns contact 237-3206.

English and Math placement test schedule

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting English and Math placement tests on the following dates:

English Placement Tests

May 14 Thursday
1pm - 4pm Room D-1
5pm - 8pm Room D-1

Math Placement Tests

May 19 Tuesday 10am - 12pm Room D-1
5pm – 7pm Room D-1
May 21 Thursday 10am - 12pm Room D-1

Those who wish to take the test must bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils. No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting time.

There is a $25 fee each for the English and Math Placement Tests that must be paid in advance at the NMC Cashier (Moday-Friday, 9am - 4pm). No one will be allowed into the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for either the placement test fee or the NMC application fee). Payment for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee.

If you have any questions about the English Placement Test, call Mark Haag at the Languages & Humanities Department at (670) 234-5498 Ext. 2017 or Mona Camacho at Ext. 1242.

If you have any questions about the Math Placement Test, call Glenn Keaton at the Sciences, Mathematics, Health, & Athletics Department at (670) 234-5498 Ext. 1200 or Hera Ogo at Ext. 1212. ***(NMC)***

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SINGAPORE	032E	4/25 Sat	4/23 Thu	4/23 Thu	4/21 Tue	4/18 Sat	5/1 Fri	4/27 Mon	4/26 Sun	4/19 Sun	4/19 Sun	4/27 Mon	5/1 Fri	5/3 Sun	5/5 Tue
MELL SENOKO	021E	5/2 Sat	4/30 Thu	4/30 Thu	4/28 Tue	4/25 Sat	5/8 Fri	5/4 Mon	5/3 Sun	4/26 Sun	4/26 Sun	5/4 Mon	5/8 Fri	5/10 Sun	5/12 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	020E	5/9 Sat	5/7 Thu	5/7 Thu	5/5 Tue	5/2 Sat	5/15 Fri	5/11 Mon	5/10 Sun	5/3 Sun	5/3 Sun	5/11 Mon	5/15 Fri	5/17 Sun	5/19 Tue
MELL SINGAPORE	033E	5/16 Sat	5/14 Thu	5/14 Thu	5/12 Tue	5/9 Sat	5/22 Fri	5/18 Mon	5/17 Sun	5/10 Sun	5/10 Sun	5/18 Mon	5/22 Fri	5/24 Sun	5/26 Tue
MELL SENOKO	022E	5/23 Sat	5/21 Thu	5/21 Thu	5/19 Tue	5/16 Sat	5/29 Fri	5/25 Mon	5/24 Sun	5/17 Sun	5/17 Sun	5/25 Mon	5/29 Fri	5/31 Sun	6/2 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	021E	5/30 Sat	5/28 Thu	5/28 Thu	5/26 Tue	5/23 Sat	6/5 Fri	6/1 Mon	5/31 Sun	5/24 Sun	5/24 Sun	6/1 Mon	6/5 Fri	6/7 Sun	6/9 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA GenSan	ETA Davao	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SINGAPORE	032E	5/9 Sat	5/10 Sun	5/10 Sun	5/12 Tue	5/14 Thu	5/16 Sat	5/17 Sun	5/19 Tue	5/22 Fri	5/23 Sat	5/28 Thu	6/16 Tue	6/14 Sun	5/27 Wed
MELL SENOKO	021E	5/16 Sat	5/17 Sun	5/17 Sun	SKIP	5/21 Thu	5/23 Sat	5/24 Sun	5/26 Tue	5/29 Fri	5/30 Sat	6/4 Thu	6/23 Tue	6/21 Sun	6/3 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	020E	5/23 Sat	5/24 Sun	5/24 Sun	5/26 Tue	5/28 Thu	5/30 Sat	5/31 Sun	6/2 Tue	6/5 Fri	6/6 Sat	6/11 Thu	6/30 Tue	6/28 Sun	6/10 Wed
MELL SINGAPORE	033E	5/30 Sat	5/31 Sun	5/31 Sun	SKIP	6/4 Thu	6/6 Sat	6/7 Sun	6/9 Tue	6/12 Fri	6/13 Sat	6/18 Thu	7/7 Tue	7/5 Sun	6/17 Wed
MELL SENOKO	022E	6/6 Sat	6/7 Sun	6/7 Sun	6/9 Tue	6/11 Thu	6/13 Sat	6/14 Sun	6/16 Tue	6/19 Fri	6/20 Sat	6/25 Thu	7/14 Tue	7/12 Sun	6/24 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	021E	6/13 Sat	6/14 Sun	6/14 Sun	SKIP	6/18 Thu	6/20 Sat	6/21 Sun	6/23 Tue	6/26 Fri	6/27 Sat	7/2 Thu	7/21 Tue	7/19 Sun	7/1 Wed

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Island Snapshots

MES MAN'AMKO

Right, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, right, signs the proclamation declaring May as Older Americans Month or Mes Man'Amko, as Senate President Pete Reyes, center, and Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero look on, at the Office on Aging on April 29, 2009.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

ENERGETIC BOONIE DOG NEEDS A HOME

Far right, this happy, healthy, energetic boonie dog is looking for someone to take her home. She understands basic commands such as "sit", has a nice coat, and is very friendly. Call Jill at 322-3425.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MARIANAS WORKSHOP

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Visitors Authority deputy managing director Judy Torres addresses the audience of travel agents and media representatives at the Marianas Seminar and Workshop in Nagoya, Japan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Travel agents and media representatives pick up material on the Northern Mariana Islands following the Marianas Seminar and Workshop conducted by Marianas Visitors Authority in Osaka.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Visitors Authority deputy managing director Judy Torres addresses the audience of travel agents and media representatives at the Marianas Seminar and Workshop in Tokyo, Japan.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

FEDERAL TEAM

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Interior's Office of Insular Affairs Nikolau Pula, center, is flanked by Frank Taitano, left, OIA policy desk officer, and Keith Aughenbaugh, right, federal CIP coordinator, after a meeting with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and his Cabinet on Capital Hill on Monday. Pula is currently on Saipan to check on the status of some federal funded projects, among other things.

ETC DONATION

Far left, special thanks to Sorensen Media Saipan-Power 99, Kat, & ABC 7 for their educational tax credit donation to Kagman Elementary School in the amount of $3,144.78. General manager Tina Palacios and parent worker Jaime Hemley presented the check to Kagman Elementary School on May 4, 2009.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FAMILY FUN FAIR

Left, some of the female participants in last Saturday's 2nd Annual Wellness Family Fun Fair join the paddling activity at the Kilili Beach.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Bernanke likely to give less dour take on economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke will provide Congress with a fresh assessment of the country's fragile economic health that probably will note some recent improvements, but still warn that it will take time—perhaps years—for the economy to get back to normal.

At the same time, Bernanke is likely to face tough questions by lawmakers at a hearing Tuesday before Congress' Joint Economic Committee about the Fed's multitrillion-dollar efforts to bust through credit clogs and get banks lending more freely again to people and businesses.

Lawmakers worry that the Fed's lending programs, as well as the government's bailout of insurance giant American International Group and taxpayer aid to Citigroup, Bank of America and others, will encourage companies to take excessive risks because Uncle Sam will clean up their messes.

Moreover, the panel's chair, Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y., and other lawmakers, have pushed the Fed to be less secretive. Some have called for the Fed to disclose the identity of banks and investment firms that draw loans from its emergency lending program and what collateral they put up for them.

AP

U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke joins other International Monetary and Financial Committee delegates as they gather at International Monetary Fund headquarters for the Spring meetings of the IMF and World Bank in Washington, Saturday, April 25, 2009.

The Fed chief also is likely to be prodded for details about how 19 large banks fared on "stress tests." Results, to be released Thursday, should shed light on which banks may need government support if the recession were to take a turn for the worse.

On the economic front, there have been some glimmers of hope that the recession is letting up.

Economic reports out Monday showed that construction spending and pending home sales both fared better than expected in March, and that gave stocks a big lift. The S&P 500, considered Wall Street's most important indicator, bounded up 3.4 percent Monday and erased the last of its losses for 2009. And the Dow Jones industrials shot up more than 200 points and had their first finish above 8,400 since Jan. 13.

Latest economic data suggests that recession 'may be easing'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Evidence that housing is poised to improve and optimism about the results of banking "stress tests" raised hopes Monday that the recession is easing and helped lift a key stock market measure into the black for the year.

Construction spending and pending home sales both fared better than expected in March, and private economists saw the reports as further evidence that the overall economy is stabilizing after its bleakest stretch in a half-century. If so, the economy might be able to mount a recovery in the second half of 2009.

Wall Street took the same view. All the major stock indexes jumped more than 2 percent. The Standard & Poor's 500 rose 3.39 percent, showing a gain for 2009.

"Investors believe the worst of the downturn is behind us," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Economy.com. "The economy is still in a recession. But the rate of decline is moderating, and a bottom for the housing market and the overall economy are coming into view."

Bolstering that picture were rising expectations that the government-run stress tests, showing how the nation's 19 largest banks would fare in a severe recession, have found most of them in reasonably good shape. The test results are expected to be released Thursday after markets close.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke has said none of the 19 banks will be allowed to fail and that any institution that needs to raise more capital will be given six months to do so.

If the bank cannot raise the needed capital as a cushion against future loan losses, the government will supply the needed resources, Bernanke has said.

The Fed chairman is scheduled to testify to Congress on Tuesday about the state of the economy.

Congress leery about Obama's plan on tax loopholes

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama promised sternly on Monday to crack down on companies "that ship jobs overseas" and duck U.S. taxes with offshore havens. It won't be easy. Democrats have been fighting—and losing—this battle since John F. Kennedy made a similar proposal in 1961. Obama's proposal to close tax loopholes was a reliable applause line during the presidential campaign, but it got a lukewarm response Monday from Capitol Hill.

Sen. Max Baucus of Montana, the Democratic chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said the plan needed further study, even though similar ideas have been around for years.

The president's plan would limit the ability of U.S. companies to defer paying U.S. taxes on overseas profits. At the same time, Obama would step up efforts to go after evaders who abuse offshore tax shelters.

Obama said his plan would raise $210 billion over the next 10 years, though no tax increases would go into effect until 2011. That's an average of $21 billion a year, less than a 2 percent nick in a federal budget deficit that is projected to hit $1.2 trillion in 2010.

Lost revenue isn't the only problem, Obama says. He contends the current system gives companies an incentive to invest overseas rather than creating jobs in the U.S.

"It's a tax code that says you should pay lower taxes if you create a job in Bangalore, India, than if you create one in Buffalo, N.Y.," Obama said Monday.

The business community argues the deferral system helps them compete against foreign companies that pay taxes only in the countries where they generate profits.

The bottom line?

"Nobody should miss the fact that this is about revenue," said Raymond Wiacek, head of the tax practice at the law firm Jones Day. "These companies have the money, and the U.S. government needs the money."

Fiat is out to create automotive powerhouse

MILAN (AP)—Fiat is trying to build a global automaking powerhouse out of parts scavenged from broken-down General Motors and Chrysler.

The Italian automaker struck a deal last week that could eventually give it a controlling interest in Chrysler, but its ambitions are bigger than that: Now it is negotiating to buy GM's main European unit, which includes the Opel and Vauxhall brands.

Fiat Group CEO Sergio Marchionne's grand plan is for Fiat to spin off the resulting automaker, which he said would be big enough to compete with the mightiest of car companies, with capacity to turn out some 5.5 million vehicles a year.

Fiat could become the fifth- or sixth-largest automaker in the world if it can complete its deals with Chrysler and GM, said Michael Robinet, vice president of global vehicle forecasts for CSM Worldwide, an industry consulting firm in Northville, Mich.

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB09-TDOF-084
Submission/Opening Date: May 15, 2009 • Time: 10:00 a.m.

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE – TINIAN BRANCH"

Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the bid if preference is claimed.

The lessor must comply with CNMI Public Law 15-23, Article 5, Section 8652.

/s/ THEODOSIA K. SANCHEZ
RESIDENT DEPARTMENT HEAD,
DEPT. OF FINANCE, TINIAN

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB09-DPL-076
Submission/Opening Date: May 15, 2009 • Time: 9:30 a.m.

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS – ROTA BRANCH"

Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the bid if preference is claimed.

The lessor must comply with CNMI Public Law 15-23, Article 5, Section 8652.

/s/ JOHN S. DEL ROSARIO, JR.
SECRETARY OF DPL

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP09-DPH-081

SUBMISSION: JUNE 01, 2009 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"OUTSIDE GROUND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL QUESTIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO **MR. JOHN M. TAGABUEL, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER BY FAX TO (670) 664-4871 OR EMAIL TO divbeh1@pticom.com.** NO LATER THAN **MAY 21, 2009, CLOSE OF BUSINESS.**

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCED IS CLAIMED.

/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

INVITATION FOR BID

Building Maintenance of NMHC's Housing Units in Rota
IFB NO.: NMHC - IFB09-002

This ad is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds.

Governor Benigno R. Fitial through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, are hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids from interested, licensed companies in the Commonwealth to provide building maintenance services for its housing units in As Liyo, Island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested firms may pick up Bid Specifications at NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or Songsong Village, Rota, from 7:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, at 10:30 a.m. at the NMHC Field Office located in Songsong Village, Rota. Bidders will have the opportunity to tour the housing subdivisions and inspect several housing units owned by NMHC that will be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed Bids must be marked **NMHC IFB09-002.** For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director, Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, May 22, 2009.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, May 22, 2009 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com For bidders located outside of the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U. S. Postal Service or the official government postal service no later than May 22, 2009 AND must be received by Procurement and Supply no later than June 3, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, June 4, 2008. However, if no Notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside of the CNMI, the bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m., local time, May 22, 2009.

Bidders are advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act and the labor standard provisions for wage rate determination of the Commonwealth. All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage for the CNMI or the U. S. Department of Labor General Decision CM20080001, whichever is higher.

This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires the successful bidder to the "maximum extent feasible", take affirmative steps to provide training, contracting and employment opportunities and help ensure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents in Rota.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC.

NMHC hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that, in any contacts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small, minority businesses and women's business enterprises will be afforded equal opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities or national origin.

NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined to be in its best interest. All bids received shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

Should you require additional information, please direct inquiries to Edith C. Fejeran, Office Manager, via email to ecfejeran@nmhc.gov.mp or facsimile at (670) 234-9021, no later than end of business day, 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 13, 2009, so that questions and answers may be shared with all bidders.

/s/ **MARCIE M. TOMOKANE**
Chairwoman of the Board

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, Procurement & Supply

Nation

Warrant charges Craigslist suspect with RI assault

WARWICK, R.I. (AP)—A medical student jailed in Boston on suspicion of killing a masseuse he met on Craigslist was charged Monday in an arrest warrant with pulling a gun on a stripper in a Rhode Island hotel.

The warrant accuses Philip Markoff of assault and weapons violations. Authorities had previously said Markoff was the suspect in the April 16 robbery attempt at a Holiday Inn Express in Warwick.

A Las Vegas stripper who offered lap dances told Rhode Island authorities that she was bound with cord and held at gunpoint by a man she met through the Craigslist classified advertising Web site. She said her assailant fled when her husband came up to the hotel room.

Police had earlier described the suspect as a tall white male with blond hair, which matches Markoff's description. Attorney General Patrick Lynch, at a news conference Monday, said he had no doubt about the identity of the woman's attacker.

"It was Philip Markoff," Lynch said. "He will be brought to justice."

A law enforcement official speaking on condition of anonymity previously told The Associated Press that investigators found Markoff's fingerprint in the hotel. They also believe he sent text messages from there. But police and prosecutors refused to discuss the evidence Monday.

Markoff, a second-year medical student at Boston University, was arrested April 20 on Interstate 95 while driving with his fiancee to Foxwoods Resorts Casino in Connecticut.

He was charged with the April 14 killing of Julissa Brisman, a 25-year-old New York City resident who advertised on Craigslist, at the Boston Marriott Copley Place hotel, in the historic Back Bay district. He has also been charged in a robbery at a Boston hotel of another masseuse police say he met through the site.

AP

Warwick, R.I., Chief of Police Col. Stephen McCartney, front, faces reporters as Warwick Mayor Scott Avedisian, left, and R.I. Attorney General Patrick Lynch, right, look on during a news conference, in Warwick, on Monday, May 4, 2009, held to announce an arrest warrant accusing Philip Markoff of assault and weapons violations.

Markoff has pleaded not guilty. His lawyer, John Salsberg, did not return a phone message Monday but has said his client is innocent and has his family's support.

Markoff's fiancee, Megan McAllister, visited Markoff in jail last week and has said she still loves and supports him but will be cooperating with prosecutors. Her lawyer has said the couple's wedding, which had been scheduled for August, is being "dismantled."

Because Markoff, 23, is a suspect in a homicide case in Boston, it could take six months to a year before he makes his first appearance in a Rhode Island courtroom, Lynch said. But he said he was committed to prosecuting Markoff even if it could take a couple of years and even though Markoff faces life without the possibility of parole if convicted of murder in Massachusetts.

"You go forward because a community cries out for justice—justice for an act that takes place that merits a response," Lynch said.

Teen son escapes Fla. family slaying; 4 dead

LAKELAND, Fla. (AP)—His father and stepmother had fought before, and 13-year-old Nathan Bellar had no reason to believe their latest exchange would turn violent. After an argument on Sunday, though, the teen watched his father gun down the woman as she tried to take her sons to their grandparents. Nathan ran back through the house and heard his father shoot his younger brothers, but the gunfire wasn't over.

His father chased him through the cluttered garage and took aim, but tripped on a bicycle before he could get off another fatal shot. As Nathan ran screaming to the safety of a neighbor's house, the father killed himself in the front lawn.

The teen was staying with his grandparents Monday, a day after investigators said Troy Ryan Bellar, 34, shot and killed his wife, Wendy Bellar, 31, and their 5-month-old and 8-year-old sons. Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd said the surviving teen was quiet and cried some after the shootings but also helped detectives piece together the deadly sequence of events.

"His entire family is gone," Judd said.

"What he witnessed, what he was engaged in, most people in this world will never witness," the sheriff later added.

Students back at NYC school after swine flu scare

NEW YORK (AP)—Students streamed into St. Francis Preparatory School on Monday morning, happy to return after an outbreak of swine flu but wary of close contact, and some equipped with hand sanitizer in their backpacks.

Swine flu sickened perhaps as many as 1,000 people associated with the Queens high school, according to the city health department. The school had 45 confirmed cases.

"I'm feeling great now," said Ivy Buchelli, 16, who said swine flu was confirmed as the reason she had a fever, chills and body aches. "After the long break, I'm glad to see everyone else and how they're doing."

"I'm just hoping the school's clean," she added. Fellow junior Paulina Janowiec, 17, said she had swine flu.

"It's a little nerve-racking, being back in school, knowing that there was a swine flu outbreak in school," she said. "But it's good to be back."

Both girls kept up with homework through the school's Web site.

Green signs on the school's doors welcomed the students back and reminded them what schedule to follow.

The city has 73 confirmed cases of swine flu and six probable ones, said Thomas Frieden, health commissioner. Of those 79, three have no link to Mexico or St. Francis, said Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who welcomed the students back.

P.S. 177, a nearby public school that closed last week after some students came down with suspected swine flu, will remain closed until Wednesday, Bloomberg said.

Of St. Francis' 2,700 students, 204 were out sick Monday, said Brother Leonard Conway, the school principal.

"Of the 204, the vast majority of calls were from parents who said, 'Just to be on the safe side I'm keeping them out for another day or two,'" Conway said.

Some said they didn't have the flu; a few said they were getting over something flu-like, Conway said. No teachers were out on Monday with swine flu, he said.

Conway said students who returned to school Monday "have a lot of work to do" and were "excited about doing it." The students have Advanced Placement and regents exams coming up. To make up the lost classroom time, final exams will start June 16—later than the scheduled June 11, 12 and 15—and the same time the regents exam will take place, Conway said.

Authorities seek SoCal tot reported kidnapped

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP)—Investigators were searching Monday for a 3-year-old boy kidnapped by two gunmen who broke into his family's home, tied up his mother and four siblings, and stole property, authorities said.

The California Highway Patrol issued an Amber Alert late Sunday for 3-year-old Briant Rodriguez, about nine hours after the family called San Bernardino County authorities.

The men, each carrying a handgun, burst through the front door around 2:30 p.m. and tied up the boy, his four siblings and their mother, Maria Milana. They then ransacked the house and stole money and other property, the county sheriff's department said.

After about 20 minutes, the men left with Briant, telling the still-bound mother and the other children not to call police, the department said in a statement. "It's horrifying," sheriff's Lt. Rick Ells said. "I don't think I could impress on you how rare a kidnapping like this is."

One of the children—an 8-year-old boy—wiggled free from his ties and freed the rest of the family, sheriff's spokeswoman Cindy Beavers said. Briant is the youngest sibling and the others range in age to 16. No witnesses saw the men's vehicle.

The boy's father, Raul Rodriguez, was at work at the time and the initial investigation pointed to the kidnappers being strangers to the family, Ells said. There were no emergency responses to the house in the previous 90 days.

ACROSS THE NATION

Former Navy official gets 3 years for child porn

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A deputy assistant secretary of the Navy under President Bill Clinton has been sentenced in San Diego to more than three years in federal prison for possessing child pornography. Wade Sanders was senior adviser for veterans and military affairs to California Lt. Gov. John Garamendi when he was arrested last year. The 68-year-old San Diego man pleaded guilty in December. U.S. District Judge Thomas Whelan sentenced the decorated Vietnam War veteran Monday to three years and one month in prison. Prosecutors sought more than five years. The maximum was 10 years Court records state there were more than 600 images of child pornography on his computers.

Ore. police: Man stopped for DUI twice in one day

MCMINNVILLE, Ore. (AP)—Police said a man was stopped and cited with driving under the influence of intoxicants charges twice in one day. In both instances, police say, the 52-year-old man was driving the same pickup and stopped near the same state liquor store. Police said they first stopped the man at 11:05 a.m. Friday after he ran a red light. He was released into the custody of his grandmother and his vehicle was impounded. A while later, authorities released the pickup to another party on condition the man not drive it. But he did. A tow company employee saw Reeves take the wheel and called police. Police spotted the pickup and followed it back to the state liquor store, where he was cited again. The second time around, the man was booked in jail on $6,250 bail.

Slain toddler's mom wants trial moved to S. Fla.

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—The attorney for a Florida mother charged with killing her toddler daughter asked a judge Monday to move the trial to South Florida. Jose Baez filed a motion for a change of venue. He told reporters that he didn't believe his client could get a fair trial in Orlando in central Florida due to the excessive local media coverage. Prosecutors, who have said they will seek the death penalty if Casey Anthony is convicted, did not immediately return messages asking for comment. "The local coverage has been so constant and at times so inflammatory that members of the local community have already formed their opinions without even hearing one piece of evidence," Baez said. "This case has become deeply embedded in this community." Casey Anthony is charged with killing her 2-year-old daughter, Caylee, who disappeared last summer. Caylee's remains were not found until December in woods near the house she lived with her mother and grandparents

Asia

AP

Afghan President Hamid Karzai, center, speaks to media as his first vice president Mohammad Qasim Fahim, left, and his second vice president Karim Khalili are seen with him following his registration at the election commission office in Kabul, Afghanistan on Monday, May 4, 2009.

Afghan president chooses warlord as running mate

KABUL (AP)—President Hamid Karzai chose a powerful warlord accused of rights abuses as one of his vice presidential running mates on Monday, hours before leaving for meetings in Washington with President Barack Obama and Pakistan's president.

The selection of Mohammad Qasim Fahim, a top commander in the militant group Jamiat-e-Islami during Afghanistan's 1990s civil war, drew immediate criticism from human rights groups.

A 2005 Human Rights Watch report, "Blood-Stained Hands," found "credible and consistent evidence of widespread and systematic human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law" were committed by Jamiat commanders, including Fahim.

Karzai was "insulting the country" with the choice, the New York-based group said Monday.

Fahim served as Karzai's first vice president during the country's interim government put in place after the ouster of the Taliban in the 2001 U.S.-led invasion. During the 2004 election, Karzai dropped Fahim from his ticket in favor of Ahmad Zia Massood—the brother of resistance hero Ahmad Shah Massood, who was assassinated by al-Qaida two days before the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

Indonesia anti-corruption chief arrested in murder

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—The chief of Indonesia's anti-corruption watchdog was arrested Monday and named a suspect in the murder of a prominent state company official, police and his lawyer said.

Antasari Azhar, who has overseen a series of high-profile investigations into government officials and institutions, has not been charged and has denied wrongdoing.

He was arrested Monday after eight hours of questioning at police headquarters in the capital, Jakarta, as a suspect in the drive-by shooting of businessman Nasrudin Zulkarnaen, said police spokesman Col. Chrysnanda Dwilaksana.

Azhar's lawyer, Denny Kailimang, confirmed the report but had no further comment. Indonesia ranks as one of the world's most corrupt countries, and President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's vows to crack down on graft helped him win 2004 elections. Several arrests of key officials by the independently run Corruption Eradication Commission have boosted his chances for re-election this June.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Suicide car bomber kills 4 troops in Pakistan

PESHAWAR (AP)—A suicide car bomber killed four security forces and wounded passing schoolchildren Tuesday in Pakistan's volatile northwest, where the government is under pressure from Washington to crack down on militants. Police said the attacker rammed his car into a vehicle carrying security forces on the outskirts of Peshawar, the capital of the embattled province where the military last week launched an operation to halt a push by the Taliban toward the capital. The blast killed four troops and wounded eight of them, as well as wounding several schoolchildren, senior police official Safwat Ghayur said. Details were not immediately available.

Nepal's prime minister resigns amid power struggle

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Nepal's prime minister, a former guerrilla leader turned politician, resigned Monday after a power struggle with the president while his party vowed to launch mass protests and shut down parliament. The resignation threw the impoverished Himalayan nation into turmoil as political leaders scrambled to adjust and security officials prepared for large demonstrations. Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal made the announcement on television Monday afternoon, one day after his attempt to fire the army chief was blocked by President Ram Baran Yadav, who belongs to the main opposition party and officially leads the army. In his resignation speech, Dahal accused Yadav of "a fatal attack on the infant democracy."

2 arrested in sabotage of Indian mogul's chopper

MUMBAI, India (AP)—Two janitors were arrested in the attempted sabotage of the helicopter of an Indian billionaire, a senior police official said Monday, describing the tampering as part of an internal dispute at the company that maintained the aircraft. The investigation into the sabotage against Anil Ambani, an industrialist embroiled in a bitter and public feud with his brother, took a dark twist last week with the death of the technician who discovered the pebbles and soil in the gear box. Police ruled that death a suicide but the man's family say they suspect foul play. The mystery has gripped Mumbai, with each new development splashed across newspapers and played in endless loops on local television channels.

World

Some fear flu rebound as Mexico seeks 'normalcy'

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexico announced a return to "normalcy" on Monday, preparing to reopen businesses and schools even as the virus sickened more than 1,400 people in 20 countries.

World health officials said the global epidemic is still in its early stages, and that a pandemic could be declared in the days to come. But Mexico's president said it was waning at its epicenter, justifying Wednesday's end to a five-day nationwide shutdown he credits for reducing the spread of the new virus.

Already, streets in the capital seemed more lively, with more vehicles and fewer people wearing face masks. Some cafes even reopened ahead of time. President Felipe Calderon said universities and high schools will reopen on Thursday, and younger schoolchildren should report back to school on May 11.

"The school schedule will resume with the guarantee that our educational institutions are in adequate hygienic condition," promised Calderon, who called on parents to join educators in a "collective" cleansing and inspection of schools nationwide.

"This is about going back to normalcy but with everyone taking better care," Calderon said.

Parents and teachers will turn away children who appear sick. The government is spending $15 million for detergent, bleach and soap to clean buildings, in a country where 12 percent of the nearly 250,000 schools—about 30,000—lack running water or bathrooms.

Mexico canceled its biggest celebration of the Cinco de Mayo holiday Tuesday, a re-enactment of the May 5, 1862 victory over French forces in the central state of Puebla. Other holiday events also were canceled.

And experts inside Mexico's swine flu crisis center warned that the virus remains active throughout Mexico and could bounce back once millions return to work and school. It also may get worse north of the border.

"The bottom line is that there hasn't been time for the severe illnesses to perhaps show up in the U.S. yet," Marc-Alain Widdowson, a medical epidemiologist from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, told The Associated Press.

Experts in the U.S. also urged caution, even as a New York City school reopened Monday after a spring break trip to Mexico led to as many as 1,000 people being sickened.

"We are by no means out of the woods," said Dr. Richard Besser, acting director of the CDC.

Health Secretary Jose Cordova insisted that swine flu infections are trending downward after 27 deaths at the center of the epidemic, including a toddler from Mexico who died in Texas. He said those infected appear to pass it on to an average 1.4 other people, near the normal flu rate of around 1.3.

Iraq insists on US leaving cities by June 30

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq's government Monday ruled out allowing U.S. combat troops to remain in Iraqi cities after the June 30 deadline for their withdrawal, despite concern that Iraqi forces cannot cope with the security challenge following a resurgence of bombings in recent weeks.

Asking U.S. forces to stay in the cities, including volatile Mosul in the north, would be embarrassing for Iraq's prime minister, who has staked his political future on claims that the country has turned the corner in the war against Sunni and Shiite extremists.

The departure of heavily armed combat troops from bases inside the cities is important psychologically to many Iraqis, who are eager to regain control of their country after six years of war and U.S. military occupation.

U.S. officials played down the Iraqi decision, with Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman saying it's up to the Iraqi government to request an extension of the U.S. presence in the cities and "we intend to fully abide by" terms of the security agreement.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Mike Mullen, told reporters Monday that violence had not risen to a level that would force a change in the withdrawal schedule.

Last month, however, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, Gen. Raymond Odierno, said he was worried that Iraqi forces won't be ready to assume full responsibility for Mosul by the end of June.

Privately, some U.S. officers fear the Iraqis may lose control of Mosul within a few months after American forces pull out of Iraq's third largest city, where al-Qaida and other Sunni militants remain active.

The U.S.-Iraq security agreement that took effect this year calls for American combat troops to leave urban areas by the end of June, with all U.S. forces out of the country by the end of 2011.

WORLD BRIEFS

Turkey: 8 suspects in wedding shooting detained

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—Turkey's Interior Minister Besir Atalay says security forces have detained eight people suspected of involvement in an attack on a wedding in southeastern Turkey. Atalay says the attack killed 44 people, correcting an earlier death toll of 45. Atalay says six of the dead were children. Masked assailants attacked the wedding ceremony in Bilge village, near the city of Mardin, with automatic weapons. Atalay says authorities have ruled out a terrorist attack and says the assault was most probably the result of a blood feud between rival families.

Italy's Berlusconi demands apology from his wife

ROME (AP)—A peeved Premier Silvio Berlusconi has demanded a public apology from his wife, who announced she was seeking a divorce from the billionaire media magnate because she was fed up with his roving eye for younger women. Going on the counterattack, the 72-year-old, perma-tanned conservative premier, who in recent years has had hair transplants and plastic surgery around the eyes, appeared more intent on saving his wounded pride than his foundering marriage. "Veronica will have to publicly apologize to me. And I don't know if that will be enough," the Corriere della Sera daily on Monday quoted Berlusconi as saying in a long chat with its editor-in-chief.

Egypt's Christians see bias in pig slaughter

CAIRO (AP)—The Egyptian government is using swine flu as an excuse to get rid of tens of thousands of pigs raised by garbage collectors who live amid the refuse in Cairo slums. But the move has prompted accusations Monday that Muslims are attacking minority Christians, who breed the animals. The government last week ordered the slaughter of all the country's 300,000 pigs as a precaution against swine flu, even though no cases have been reported in the country. But after the World Health Organization criticized the measure as entirely unnecessary, the government expanded the rationale for the slaughter to confront a long-standing hygienic problem posed by pigs and garbage dumps in the midst of densely populated areas of the capital. An estimated quarter of a million people in Cairo, primarily poor Christians, make their living from garbage collecting and raising pigs in city slums. They collect the refuse, dump it in the courtyards of their house and comb through it for material recycled in crude workshops nearby while the animals feed on food waste.

Campus Life

NMI public school students talk about their teachers

The celebration continues within the CNMI Public School System for teachers, teacher aides, and instructors this Teacher Appreciation Week.

PSS educators are pampered with notes of appreciation from their students for making a difference in their students' educational and personal lives. Here, students talk about how their teachers have inspired their successes in education.

They help me understand things. They teach me new things and they make us learn while having a good time.

—Roman Reyes, Jr., 2nd Grade, Oleai Elementary School

Teachers make me understand math and other subjects. They have talked about how good we are if we use good manners. They tell us that we are smart.

—Benjamin Jay Seman, 3rd Grade, Oleai Elementary School

Teachers are our second parents. They treat us with respect and encourage us to excel in school. Teachers help us become better citizens by teaching us things we need to know to become independent thinkers. Oleai teachers are committed, dedicated, and are just awesome!

—De'Jana Lennise Muna, 3rd Grade, Oleai Elementary School

They help me achieve my goals and improve my life. They've done so much like pushing me to achieve harder goals and actually accomplishing them.

—Arnold Seman, 5th Grade, Oleai Elementary School

Teachers are always positive. They have changed my life by teaching me things that I need to know in life and be able to apply them everywhere we go.

This week, the CNMI Public School System celebrates Teacher Appreciation Week.

—Ursula Monica DLC. Lizama, 6th Grade, Oleai Elementary School

He gives us activities we like. He's nice and kind. He makes us have free time for a little while.

—Jia Wen Chen, 3rd Grade, Garapan Elementary School

She takes teaching seriously and she really acts like we are one of her children. She does her best in making us succeed on tests such as SAT10 and SBAs. She makes sure that we understand each process before moving on. Happy Teacher's Appreciation Week!

—Lee Ann Jastillana, 5th Grade, Garapan Elementary School

They inspire me to go and see what life brings me. They motivate me to face the world and they inspire me to learn new things they give us.

—Lynette Vasquez, 6th Grade, Garapan Elementary School

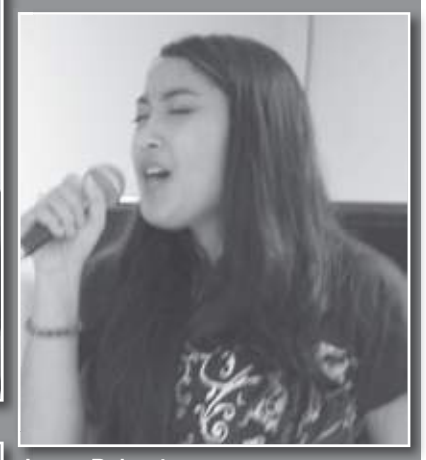
The thing I like most about teachers is that they do their best and never give up until their students learn.

—Joyce Ann Nisola, 3rd Grade, Garapan Elementary School

I want to thank my teacher for teaching me everything I need to learn as I grow. Teaching me to read better, Teaching me to get along well with others and all I need to know as I go on to the next school years.

—Tommylee Augustin, 3rd Grade, Garapan Elementary School

Samylyn Atalig



Janee Babauta

Dean Borja

Miki Dela Cruz

Luis Jose Villagomez

MARIANAS IDOL CONTESTANTS

The Northern Marianas College's Charter Day Committee held its auditions for the Marianas Idol Competition on Monday. The top five finalists, who will be competing at the festivities on Friday, May 8, include Dean Borja, Samylyn Atalig, Luis Jose Villagomez, Janee Babauta, and Miki Dela Cruz.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The active life of Yvette Bennett

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Beauty titlist and Kagman High School campus personality Yvette Deleon Guerrero Bennett shares with the *Saipan Tribune* how sports activities continue to inspire and improve her as a student and as an individual. A senior student at Kagman High, Yvette is an active member of the national track team of the Northern Marianas Athletics and the CNMI women's national basketball group. She is the proud daughter of Lillian and Ambrose Bennett.

Saipan Tribune: What do you gain as a student, individual, and youth from community and sports activities?

Answer: Being active in sports and the community really helps me as a student, a young adult and an individual. With sports always being there with me, it has taught me so much about life and how to handle it. Being active in the community helps me as a young adult and an individual to open up more to people and just being able to even talk to people of any age, for example. I play basketball and run track and field and they both help in mainly two ways: with basketball it taught me how to play (work) as a team and with track it taught me how to be an individual. So both sports help me look at things in life in different ways and help me become a better person.

ST: What satisfaction do you get from those experiences?

A: I am getting a lot out of all these experiences. I get to walk away with more knowledge, more or better skills, and learning more from each one.

ST: What notable contribution in school and in the community do you value the most?

A: At my high school, Kagman High, I'm a member of the National Honor Society and that is something I'm proud of. I enjoy being part of the NHS at my school because we help out with the community with beach cleanups and even volunteer for community activities and I really enjoy doing all that. It makes me feel good as a person.

ST: You were raised in a family whose members are known in different fields. Shequita Bennett is a former Miss Marianas Universe, Yvonne is a popular athlete, and your father as ex-NMI teacher rep. How do their status and experiences motivate you as an individual?

A: All my family's achievements and experiences help me become the individual I am today. They all have done so much with their lives and did it all so well and that helps me and motivates me to do well just like them. I could say I have had my own achievements, like participating in the 2007 Miss Marianas Teen pageant where I was a top 5 finalist and won the Best in Evening Gown award. With that experience it really made me feel different about myself because I didn't think I could put myself out there but I did, and to me that was the best award from that experience.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Beauty titlist and Kagman High School campus personality Yvette Deleon Guerrero Bennett.

ST: How does it feel to be a sister and a daughter to these persons?

A: Being the daughter and sister of these people is just like being with any other family. I mean at times we go places and people would either mistake me for my older sister Shequita or my twin sister Yvonne, or they would even call me "Bennett's daughter" but other than that, I still have stuff to do around home and tell them "I love you" everyday.

ST: What are your other fields of interest and why?

A: Besides my interest in sports and volunteering, I really enjoy modeling. Modeling is something I've always loved and want to do in my life. It's something that I enjoy doing besides sports. I mean, it is nice to get out of basketball shorts and dress up every once in a while. I have been doing some modeling here on the island, mainly with DFS Galleria. So modeling is something I also do for fun and one day I hope to call myself a professional model and have that career I've been dreaming of.

ST: What are the most interesting and important issues for youths today?

A: The most interesting issue out there for me would have to be the style of eating in the CNMI. I really do believe that this is a big issue because a lot of people, especially the youth, have trouble putting themselves out there and becoming more active. I mean look at it this way, if you pay real close attention to the athletes, especially the youth athletes, you would see *most* of the same faces in almost all the sports. We have the same athletes playing more than one sport and going to off island trips to play more sports.

ST: How should this issue be addressed?

A: I think we should just have more sport facilities, the community's involvement with the issue, and to just lend a helping hand to those who need one. My advice to my fellow youth is to just try something new, whether a sport or to even go walking for 30 minutes. If you are just beginning to workout—exercise—just start of with 30 minutes a day, then slowly increase your time of exercise to at least an hour and 30 minutes a day until you get the hang of working out. Also you can do it with friends to make it a lot more fun!

Life & Style

Madonna adoption case heard amid paternity dispute

AP

James Beard Foundation Award winners Jean-Georges Vongerichten, right, and Dan Barber toast their success after winning awards at the annual awards dinner, Monday, May 4, 2009 in New York. Vongerichten won the Outstanding Restaurant Award for Jean-Georges and Barber won the Outstanding Chef Award for Blue Hill.

Dan Barber named top chef in US at food 'Oscars'

NEW YORK (AP)—Dan Barber, a pioneer of the so-called farm-to-table restaurant movement, was named the nation's top chef Monday by the James Beard Foundation.

Dan Barber was lauded for using his New York restaurants—Blue Hill New York and Blue Hill at Stone Barns in Pocantico Hills—to highlight the difference seasonal and sustainable agriculture can make on the plate.

Barber sees his cooking—which he calls American seasonal—as an effort to raise awareness about everyday food choices. At Stone Barns, which is set on a working farm, the menu is a simple list of fresh ingredients.

Barber, who was named one of the nation's best new chefs in 2002 by Food & Wine magazine, previously was recognized by the Beard Foundation as the top New York chef in 2006. He also was a finalist for the top chef last year.

The James Beard awards are the Oscars of the food world, and honor those who follow in the footsteps of Beard, considered the dean of American cooking when he died in 1985.

Barber's award comes at a time when much is being made of the importance of reconnecting Americans with food at its source. For example, first lady Michelle Obama recently planted a vegetable garden at the White House, a move long sought by proponents of sustainable agriculture.

Michael Pollan, a vocal critic of conventional agriculture, got a similar nod from the foundation Monday. His "In Defense of Food," an examination of the American diet and food system, won a Beard book award.

Jean-Georges Vongerichten's New York restaurant Jean George was honored as the nation's top restaurant. The restaurant was a finalist in the category last year.

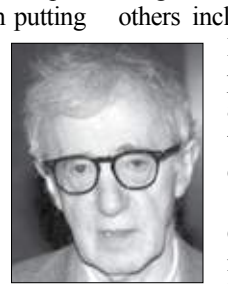
David Chang, who has received numerous accolades for his Momofuku Noodle Bar and Momofuku Ssam Bar restaurants in New York, earned "Best New Restaurant" for his Ko, which has been celebrated for its tasting menu-only offerings. The foundation honored Chang as best New York chef last year.

The foundation's award for rising star went to San Francisco chef Nate Appleman, whose restaurant A16 features the foods of Italy's Campania region.

In the cookbook categories, Jennifer McLagan's "Fat: An Appreciation of a Misunderstood Ingredient," won two awards—cookbook of the year and single subject cookbook.

Woody Allen seeks to block Farrow's NYC testimony

NEW YORK (AP)—Actor-director Woody Allen asked a judge on Monday to stop a clothing company from putting his former longtime companion Mia Farrow and his wife—Farrow's adopted daughter—on the witness stand as it defends itself against his claims it used his image on billboards without permission.



Allen

In papers filed in U.S. District Court in Manhattan, Allen said Los Angeles-based American Apparel Inc.'s requests to summon Farrow, her adopted daughter Soon-Yi Previn and others including his sister and Hustler magazine publisher Larry Flynt are a "brutish attempt to smear and intimidate" him.

Allen sued American Apparel for $10 million after it used his image on its billboards in Hollywood and New York and on a Web site. Allen, who does not endorse products in the United States, said he had not authorized the displays, which the company said were up for a week. Jury selection in the civil trial is set for May 18.

American Apparel lawyer Stuart Slotnick has said the company will make Allen's relationships with Farrow and Previn a focus of the trial to show that Allen's image is no longer worth the $10 million he believes his billboard appearance merits.

Slotnick did not immediately return messages seeking comment Monday.

BLANTYRE, Malawi (AP)—Malawi's highest court heard arguments Monday on Madonna's bid to adopt a 3-year-old girl from the southern African country, as a dispute erupted over whether a man trying to stop the proceedings is the girl's father.

Madonna was not at Monday's hearing at the Malawi Supreme Court of Appeal, which was held in public after the judges reversed an earlier decision to hold a closed session.

The three judges adjourned after hearing from lawyers for the pop star and for two independent children's rights groups. The judges did not immediately set a date for the next session in the case, at which a decision was expected to be announced.

Madonna is fighting a lower court's decision that she cannot adopt Chifundo "Mercy" James because she had not been screened over time by Malawi authorities. The court said the rules were bent when Madonna adopted her son David from Malawi last year.

The pop star's Malawian lawyer, Alan Chinula, said he was "hopeful" the appeal would succeed, and argued the lower court had relied on outdated law to block the girl's adoption.

A renowned Malawi constitutional expert, Modechai Msiska, joined Madonna's legal team, arguing in court Monday that although the issue of residence was a factor, it would be unconstitutional if adhering to it negated "certain rights of the child."

Madonna

Johns Gulumba, lawyer for Eye of the Child, an independent group that opposes the adoption, argued that following the rules kept the doors closed to potential child abusers. He added foreign adoptions should be the last resort, "when all other options, like foster parenting in country of residence, have failed."

Madonna found the girl in 2006 at Kondanani Children's Village, an orphanage in Bvumbwe just south of the commercial capital of Blantyre. It was the same year she adopted David, whom she found at another orphanage in the central Mchinji district.

On Sunday, a man told The Associated Press he was the girl's father, and has sought help from the Malawi Law Society to stop the adoption.

James Kambewa, a 24-year-old security guard, acknowledged he has never seen the child. According to court documents, she was placed in the orphanage when her 14-year-old mother died a few weeks after giving birth to her.

But Kambewa said he now wanted to claim custody of Chifundo.

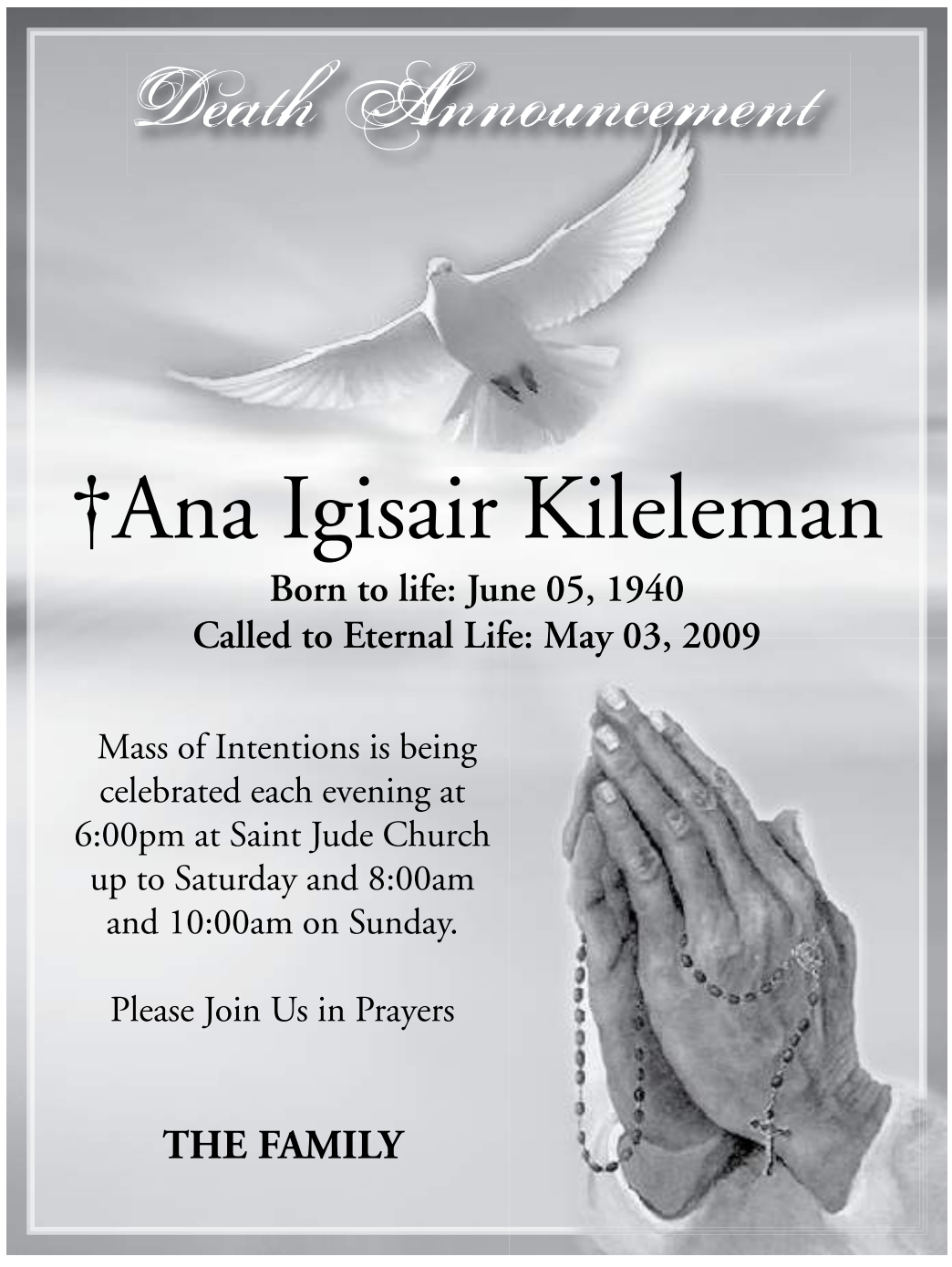
"I may be poor, but I think I have what it takes to raise a daughter," he said. "I will fight the adoption."

The brother of the girl's mother told the AP the family does not know Kambewa.

"How can he claim he is the father when he hasn't been around all this time?" said Peter Baneti, who explained that the girl was put in the orphanage because there was no one to breast-feed the baby.

Baneti said he had agreed to the adoption on behalf of the family, and that Kambewa was "just an opportunist."

Madonna spokeswoman Liz Rosenberg said in an e-mail message she doesn't know if Kambewa is the father.


Death Announcement
†Ana Igisair Kileleman
Born to life: June 05, 1940
Called to Eternal Life: May 03, 2009
Mass of Intentions is being celebrated each evening at 6:00pm at Saint Jude Church up to Saturday and 8:00am and 10:00am on Sunday.
Please Join Us in Prayers
THE FAMILY

'Twilight,' 'Slumdog' lead MTV award nominees

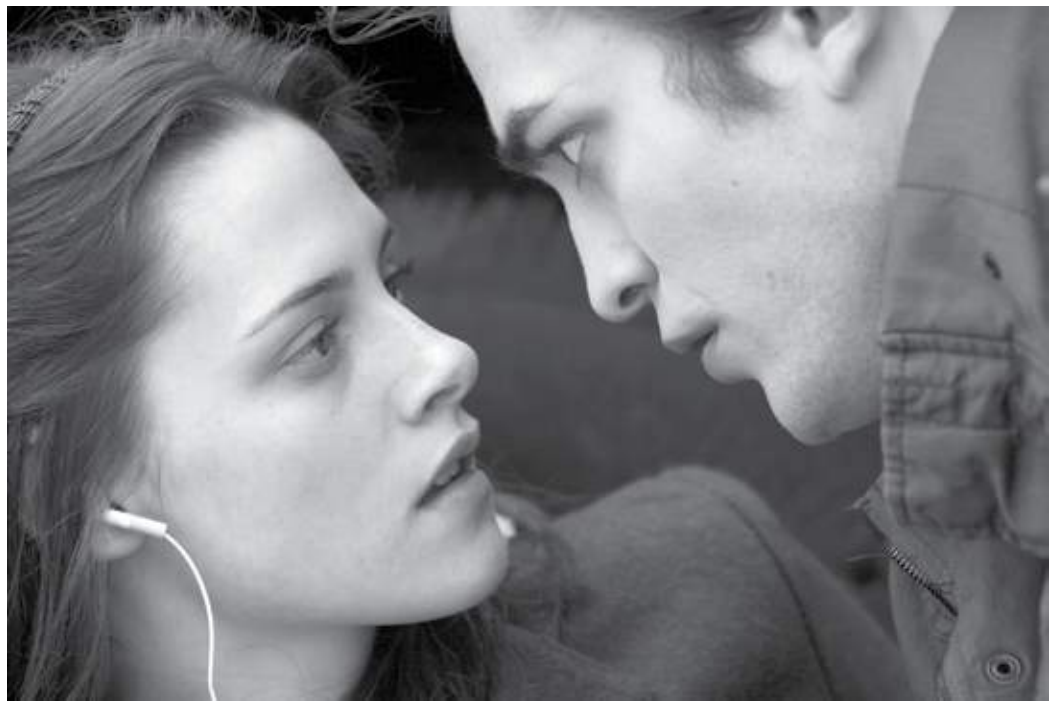
NEW YORK (AP)—It's "Twilight" versus "Slumdog Millionaire" at this year's MTV Movie Awards.

The vampire blockbuster took the lead with seven nominations and the Oscar-winning Indian romance received six, MTV announced Monday. Both popular movies were nominated for best film.

"Slumdog" star Dev Patel and "Twilight" vampire Robert Pattinson are both nominated for the male breakthrough performance award. The other contenders are Ben Barnes ("The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian"), Bobb'e J. Thompson ("Role Models") and Pattinson's "Twilight" co-star Taylor Lautner.

Mark Burnett, who produces the freewheeling ceremony, said either film has a great chance of winning best picture.

"Twilight" has "certainly touched a part of America and young girls are totally in love with what the movie stands for and (with) romance," Burnett said in an interview. "On the other hand, I have to say, all of my kids loved `Slumdog Millionaire.' There's just something so uplifting about what that movie stands for."



AP

In this image released by Summit Entertainment, Kristen Stewart, left, and Robert Pattinson are shown in a scene from, "Twilight."

Other nominated movies include "Iron Man," "The Dark Knight" and "High School Musical 3: Senior Year."

Kate Winslet, who won an Oscar for her dramatic role in "The Reader," is up for best female performance, along with Angelina Jolie ("Wanted"), Anne Hathaway ("Bride Wars"), Kristen Stewart ("Twilight") and Taraji P. Henson ("The Curious Case of Benjamin Button").

Nominees for best male performance are Christian Bale ("The Dark Knight"), Robert Downey Jr. ("Iron Man"), Shia LaBeouf ("Eagle Eye"), Vin Diesel ("Fast & Furious") and "High School Musical" heartthrob Zac Efron.

Efron's co-star (and girlfriend) Vanessa Hudgens will challenge Miley Cyrus for the breakthrough performance female award. Their competition includes "Slumdog" beauty Freida Pinto and Ashley Tisdale, another "HSM" star.

The golden popcorn trophy for best kiss—one of the event's signature unconventional categories—could be handed to one of six big-screen duos, including Efron and Hudgens, Pinto and Patel, Stewart and Pattinson, or Sean Penn and James Franco, who co-starred in "Milk."

Ledger, who won a posthumous Oscar for his menacing performance as the Joker in "The Dark Knight," is also nominated in the best villain category.

MTV usually introduces a new category or two each year: This year, a golden popcorn will be awarded to the "best song from a movie." The nominees are Cyrus' "The Climb" (from the new "Hannah Montana" film); the "Twilight" song "Decode" by Paramore; the "Slumdog" anthem "Jai Ho"; and the Bruce Springsteen ballad "The Wrestler" from the movie starring Mickey Rourke.

Votes can be cast online at MTV's Web site through May 27 for all categories except best movie. MTV said voting in that category remains open until May 31, when the show will air live from the Gibson Amphitheatre in Universal City, Calif. "Saturday Night Live" star Andy Samberg is the host.

Burnett said the key to a successful movie-awards show is to let awkward moments pan out. Among last year's highlights: Franco and Seth Rogen pulled out a bag of fake marijuana on stage.

"I will tell you right now—there are three big things" that are part of the show, Burnett said. "I would say personally in my three years of producing the MTV Movie Awards live, the biggest thing that I can think of is going to be happening this year."

Leak doesn't keep fans away from 'Wolverine'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Not even pirates can stop Wolverine.

Audiences weren't deterred from watching "X-Men Origins: Wolverine" on the big screen despite a full-length version of the superhero prequel clawing its way online last month.

The 20th Century Fox movie grabbed the No. 1 spot at the weekend box office with an estimated $87 million opening, toppling the first two "X-Men" films—but not the third, according to studio estimates Sunday.

While copies of the work print, which Fox said was "without many effects, had missing and unedited scenes and temporary sound and music," continue to appear on several file-sharing Web sites, movie-goers still lined up to see how the feral "X-Men" bad boy played by Hugh Jackman was first outfitted with his razor-sharp paws.

"I started watching it online but didn't finish because it didn't have any of the special effects," Jason Nguyen said outside of the AMC Burbank 16 before a Friday show. "It seemed like something you would just watch on the DVD after seeing the real movie. I just didn't think watching that would compare to watching the finished one with all the special effects."

Another movie-goer, Christina Ruiz, said outside the Pacific Theatres Glendale 18, that she didn't think watching a movie on the Internet "really compares to watching it in a movie theater, and just because you watch something online doesn't mean you're not going to go to the movies. It's different."

"I really liked the first 'X-Men' movies and went to see them with all of my friends," Ruiz said.

FoxNews.com chief entertainment columnist Roger Friedman and the Fox News organization "mutually agreed to part ways immediately" after Friedman boasted about watching the movie's leaked version at his desk.

"It took really less than seconds to start playing it all right onto my computer," Friedman wrote in his Fox 411 column on FoxNews.com last month. "I could have downloaded all of it but really, who has the time or the room? Later tonight I may finally catch up with Paul Rudd in `I Love You, Man.' It's so much easier than going out in the rain!"

After the work print was leaked, studio co-chairman Tom Rothman told Entertainment Weekly the pirated version was "about 10 minutes shorter" than the complete theatrical version. But the running time for the theatrical version—107 minutes—was exactly the same.

"If they watch (the leaked work print), will they get the story? Sure, but there are 400 visual-effects shots that aren't complete and Harry Gregson-Williams' score isn't in the movie," director Gavin Hood said. "So I almost want to say, `Why did you do this to yourself? You're such a fan of Wolverine, why do you want to see something that isn't ready?'"

Other than the completed effects and sound, possibly the biggest difference between the two versions are secret endings. Hood said two different post-credit "Easter egg" scenes play on separate prints. The leaked work print's final scene stars Wolverine, but another ending exists that features the film's villain.

Polanski won't appear at LA court hearing

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Roman Polanski's lawyer told a judge Monday the fugitive film director won't appear at a hearing this week to seek dismissal of the decades-old sex case against him.

Attorney Chad Hummel argued in a court document that Polanski's personal appearance in court is irrelevant to the question of whether judicial and prosecutorial misconduct violated his constitutional rights. He said there is no legal precedent to support a finding by Superior Court Judge Peter Espinoza that the issues can't be addressed in Polanski's absence.

"The misconduct is plainly evident from the existing record," Hummel said in his filing. He also noted that the judge's refusal to dismiss the case is contrary to the wishes of the victim, Samantha Geimer, who joined in Polanski's bid for dismissal.

The Los Angeles County district attorney's office opposes dismissal and has advocated that Polanski appear in person in order to have his request heard. If Polanski returned to the United States he would likely be arrested on a fugitive warrant.

"We feel the law is very clear on this matter. But this has always been a matter between Mr. Polanski and the court," said district attorney's spokeswoman Sandi Gibbons.

Espinoza said earlier that after watching an HBO documentary on the case he agrees there was misconduct by now-deceased Judge Laurence Rittenband, who arranged a plea bargain but reneged on it.

Polanski, now 75, pleaded guilty in 1977 to unlawful sexual intercourse with a 13-year-old girl but fled to France in February 1978 after Rittenband threatened him with more prison time than agreed upon. Rittenband also said Polanski would have to voluntarily deport himself after serving his sentence.

Polanski lives in France, where his film career has continued to flourish. He received a directing Oscar in absentia for the 2002 movie "The Pianist." While still working in the United States, he directed such classics as "Chinatown" and "Rosemary's Baby."

The films that highlighted this year's Tribeca

NEW YORK (AP)—Slimmed down to 85 films, the eighth annual Tribeca Film Festival, which wrapped Sunday, nevertheless had one of its most successful years—at least in terms of the films screened.

Moviegoers stumbled across quality films with ease and distributors even found a few movies worth acquiring—a notable feat in the current climate of independent film.

Woody Allen's new one ("Whatever Works") premiered and Steven Soderbergh showed his latest, "The Girlfriend Experience," a modest film shot with nonprofessional actors.

"City Island" won the audience award. The comedy stars Andy Garcia as a prison guard who hides his secret love—acting—from his family, who live in the New York City fishing community of City Island.

"Fixer: The Taking of Ajmal Naqshbandi," about the kidnapping of an Afghan hired by foreign journalists, was acquired by HBO, and its director, Ian Olds, won the prize for best new documentary filmmaker.

PBS bought Spike Lee's "Passing Strange"—a documentary of the rock musical by the same name. Lee's Kobe Bryant documentary, "Kobe Doin' Work," was also screened at the festival.

But a handful of films stood out even among this group. Here are the five films from Tribeca that most impressed this writer.

"THE ECLIPSE": Possibly the hottest property at Tribeca, it may have also been the best. Director Conor McPherson, the Irish playwright of "The Seafarer" and "The Weir," is already one of the most admired figures in theater. "The Eclipse" is a fully realized cinematic equivalent of the haunted tales he's created on the stage. Ciaran Hinds (HBO's "Rome") stars as a father and widower who begins to see ghosts at the same time he meets a writer of ghost stories (Iben Hjejle). Hinds won best actor at the festival, and Magnolia Pictures purchased the film.

"RACING DREAMS": Directed by Marshall Curry, "Racing Dreams" won for best documentary at Tribeca. It follows three young racing enthusiasts who—though several years shy of being eligible for a driver's license—dream of growing up to be NASCAR drivers. The story of these pint-sized Jeff Gordons is in many ways simply about childhood, about 12-year-olds balancing their race to adulthood with simply wanting to be a kid. Curry's last film, "Street Fight," was nominated for an Academy Award.

"IN THE LOOP": This ultra-dry political satire built on its positive reception at the Sundance Film Festival. Directed by British TV veteran Armando Iannucci and co-starring James Gandolfini as an army general, "In the Loop" portrays Beltway insiders and Downing Street politicians in a rush to war. Most are comical, unknowing puppets yielding to the more powerful. Call it a "Dr. Strangelove" for today's times.

"ABOUT ELLY": A hit at the Berlin Film Festival, "About Elly" won best narrative film at Tribeca. The fourth film from Iranian director Asghar Farhadi (who won best director at Berlin) follows a group of college friends taking a weekend trip from Tehran to the Caspian Sea. Everything falls apart, though, after a tragic accident. But it's not the event that leaves a mark so much as the group's reaction, which illuminates the complicated gender roles of Iranian culture.

"BLANK CITY": Recessions aren't all bad. That's part of the lesson derived from "Blank City," a documentary about the No Wave and Cinema of Transgression films that came out of '70s New York—specifically the East Village and Lower East Side scene that coincided and overlapped with the music of the Ramones, Television and Blondie. In "Blank City," downtown filmmakers like Jim Jarmusch, Steve Buscemi, John Lurie and Nick Zedd discuss what made '70s New York—dangerous and poor—so inspiring.

McCanns to Winfrey: Madeleine is still alive

MADELEINE McCANN
HAVE YOU SEEN THIS LITTLE GIRL?
MADELEINE AGED 3
MADELEINE AGED 6
Madeleine McCann was abducted in Praia da Luz, Portugal on Thursday 3rd May 2007
If you see Madeleine please dont hesitate,
CONTACT THE LOCAL POLICE FORCE IMMEDIATELY
alternatively, call +44 (0)845 838 4699
or visit www.findmadeleine.com thank you.
All information will be dealt with confidentially and can be given anonymously.

This illustration released Friday, May 1, 2009 by Harpo Productions Inc., shows a photo, left, and an age-progressed image, right, of Madeleine McCann, the British toddler who was 4 when she disappeared from a hotel room in Portugal on May 3, 2007. The age-progressed image, created by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, depicts what Madeleine may look like at age 6.

AP

CHICAGO (AP)—In a tearful interview with Oprah Winfrey that aired Monday, the parents of a British girl who disappeared two years ago from a Portuguese resort asked their daughter's alleged abductor to "tell us where she is."

Kate and Gerry McCann said on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" that they believe a man took their daughter, Madeleine, and she is still alive. The girl was almost 4 years old when she disappeared in May 2007.

"It's not too late to do the right thing," Gerry McCann said when Winfrey asked the parents what they wanted to say to the person who took Madeleine.

"You know, they can give her up, they can tell us where she is," he said. "They can hand her over to a priest or someone in authority."

Kate McCann said she still has hope Madeleine will be found.

"This man is known to somebody," she said. "He's someone's son, someone's brother, someone's cousin, someone's neighbor, someone's colleague, someone's partner, so he's known to someone. And even if these people don't know that he definitely did it, they might have a suspicion, and it's just, I guess, somehow reaching out to them and saying please come forward."

A family spokesman said the McCanns agreed to speak with Winfrey because of the global reach of her show, which is aired in 144 countries. Winfrey also unveiled an age-progressed image of Madeleine.

The interview was taped April 24.

Court sends Janet Jackson case back for review

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court on Monday ordered a federal appeals court to re-examine its ruling in favor of CBS Corp. in a legal fight over entertainer Janet Jackson's wardrobe malfunction. The high court on Monday directed the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia to consider reinstating the $550,000 fine that the Federal Communications Commission imposed on CBS over Jackson's breast-baring performance at the 2004 Super Bowl.

The order follows the high court ruling last week that narrowly upheld the FCC's policy threatening fines against even one-time uses of curse words on live television.

In a statement, CBS said the Supreme Court's decision was not a surprise given last week's ruling and expressed confidence the court will again find the incident was not and could not have been anticipated by the network.

Last year, the appeals court threw out the fine against CBS, saying the FCC strayed from its long-held approach of applying identical standards to words and images when reviewing complaints of indecency.

The appellate court said the incident lasted nine-sixteenths of one second and should have been regarded as "fleeting." The FCC previously deviated from its nearly 30-year practice of fining indecent broadcast programming only when it was so "pervasive as to amount to 'shock treatment' for the audience," the court said.

AP

In this Sunday Feb. 1, 2004 file photo, entertainer Janet Jackson, left, covers her breast after her outfit came undone during the half time performance with Justin Timberlake at Super Bowl XXXVIII in Houston.

AP

In this Dec. 6, 2007 file photo, actors Peter Sarsgaard, left, and Maggie Gyllenhaal, attend the celebrity designed Lunchbox auction to benefit the Food Bank of New York City and The Lunchbox Fund in New York.

Sarsgaard and Gyllenhaal get married

NEW YORK (AP)—Peter Sarsgaard (SAHRZ'-gahrd) and Maggie Gyllenhaal (JIHL'-ihn-hahl) have made it official.

Amanda Silverman, Gyllenhaal's publicist, says the couple were married Saturday. She didn't provide any details.

Gyllenhaal and Sarsgaard have a daughter, Ramona, who was born in October 2006. They announced their engagement earlier that year.

Gyllenhaal's film roles include "The Dark Knight" and "World Trade Center." Sarsgaard has appeared in the films "Jarhead," "Boys Don't Cry" and "Kinsey."

The couple recently co-starred in an off-Broadway revival of the classic play "Uncle Vanya."Cormac McCarthy receives PEN award

'Ruined' gets top Lortel off-Broadway play prize

NEW YORK (AP)—Productions set in Africa have taken the top Lucille Lortel Awards for the best of off-Broadway.

"Ruined," Lynn Nottage's drama of survival set against the backdrop of an African civil war, has received the prize for best play, while "Fela!" (FAY'-la) was chosen best musical.

"Fela!" received the most awards, collecting two other prizes, including awards for its choreographer, Bill T. Jones, and its costume designer, Marina Draghici (Ma-RHEE'-nah DRAH'-ge-chee).

The musical is based on the life of African composer and activist Fela Anikulapo (ah nee-koo-LA'-poh) Kuti (COO'-tee).

"Ruined" also won a Pulitzer Prize.

Cormac McCarthy receives PEN award

NEW YORK (AP)—Pulitzer Prize winner Cormac McCarthy has received another literary honor.

The author of "The Road," "All the Pretty Horses" and several other novels was named the winner Monday of the PEN/Saul Bellow Award for lifetime achievement in American fiction. The prize is worth $25,000.

The PEN American Center, the U.S. chapter of the international writers organization, announced several other honors, including a nonfiction award for Steve Coll's "The Bid Ladens" and citations to Nobel laureate Nadine Gordimer, Ha Jin and 18 other authors for excellence in short fiction.

Wife's brutal sense of humor leaves its mark on marriage

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My wife thinks it's funny when she hits me. The other day I was splitting some wood and decided to take a break. I began driving golf balls into the field. She came out, grabbed the club out of my hands and whacked me in the leg with it. When I asked her why, she said, "Get back to work!" and started laughing. I was left with a large welt and a big bruise.

Another time she bought some king crab legs for dinner. When I asked her if she was serving anything else with them, she picked up a crab claw and hit me in the forehead with it. She thought it was funny. I ended up in the emergency room with three stitches.

Last night, I was trying to add up our bills on the computer. She walked in and smacked me in the chin with the keyboard. She said I should be able to do the bills on paper like a normal person.

We have been together nine years, married for three. I love her with all my heart, but I'm getting tired of her little "jokes." How can I approach her? I want her to know how I feel, but I'm afraid to offend her or make her angry.

FRUSTRATED IN OREGON

DEAR FRUSTRATED: Why are you afraid to speak your mind? Are you afraid she'll hit you again? Your wife has a sadistic sense of humor and enjoys seeing you in pain. Unless you draw the line, she will cause you serious injury.

Regardless of how much you love her, for your own safety you should get the heck out of there. What you have described is a form of spousal abuse, and it will escalate. That's why I'm urging you to contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline. The toll-free number is (800) 799-7233. The counselors there offer guidance to women AND men who are being abused by their spouse or partner.

Another organization, SAFE (Stop Abuse for Everyone), also assists victims of abuse regardless of age, gender or sexual orientation. Its Web site is www.safe4all.org.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I stole a large sum of money from the company I worked for and was fired. I agreed to work out a repayment plan for all the money I owe.

Although I feel extremely lucky about the outcome, I also feel a great deal of remorse and shame for what I did. My career is probably shot to hell, my former co-workers have lost their trust in me and I can't seem to move forward with my life. I know what I did was wrong, and I am deeply sorry for it.

How do I forgive myself for what happened and get past it? I have contemplated suicide because of the pain and guilt I have experienced and for other problems in my life.

LOST AND ASHAMED IN CHICAGO

DEAR LOST AND ASHAMED: You are going through what some people euphemistically refer to as "a rough patch." Yes, you have made some poor choices, but you are also doing the best you can to make restitution. Suicide is not the answer. Paying back the money is. Once that's done you will feel much better about yourself.

Frankly, it's time you started being a little kinder to yourself. You have beaten yourself up enough, and the last thing you need in addition is a public flogging. However, if the suicidal thoughts persist, the toll-free number for the National Suicide Prevention Hotline is (800) 784-2433.

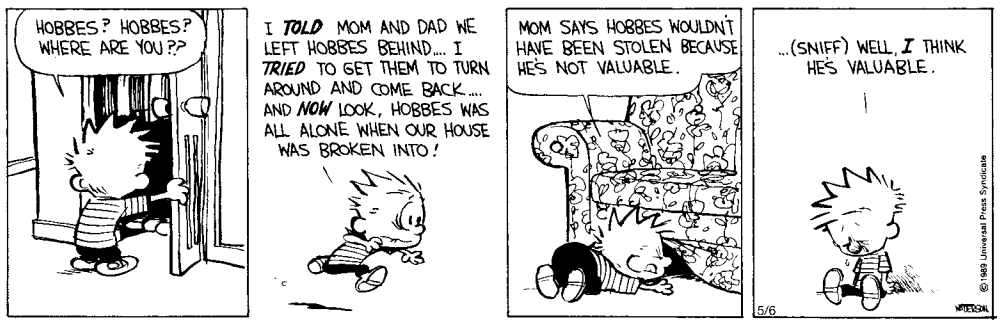
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

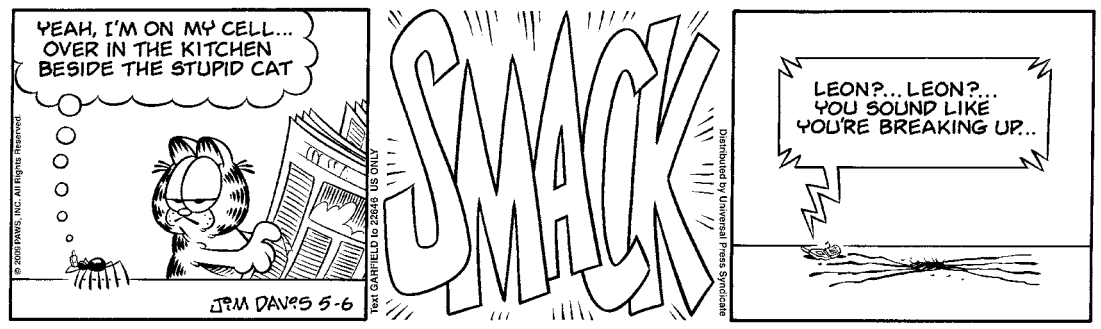
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HOBBES? HOBBES? WHERE ARE YOU??
I TOLD MOM AND DAD WE LEFT HOBBES BEHIND.... I TRIED TO GET THEM TO TURN AROUND AND COME BACK.... AND NOW LOOK, HOBBES WAS ALL ALONE WHEN OUR HOUSE WAS BROKEN INTO!
MOM SAYS HOBBES WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN STOLEN BECAUSE HE'S NOT VALUABLE.
...(SNIFF) WELL, I THINK HE'S VALUABLE.
© 1988 Universal Press Syndicate
5/6

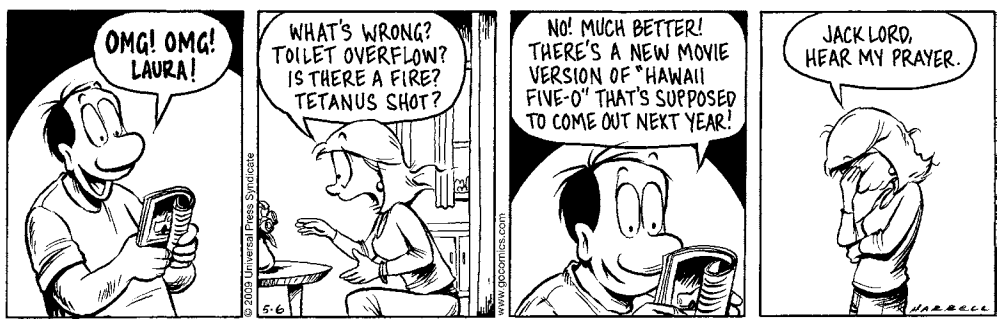
Garfield®

By Jim Davis


YEAH, I'M ON MY CELL... OVER IN THE KITCHEN BESIDE THE STUPID CAT
JIM DAVIS 5-6
SMACK
LEON?... LEON?... YOU SOUND LIKE YOU'RE BREAKING UP...
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OMG! OMG! LAURA!
WHAT'S WRONG? TOILET OVERFLOW? IS THERE A FIRE? TETANUS SHOT?
NO! MUCH BETTER! THERE'S A NEW MOVIE VERSION OF "HAWAII FIVE-O" THAT'S SUPPOSED TO COME OUT NEXT YEAR!
JACK LORD, HEAR MY PRAYER.
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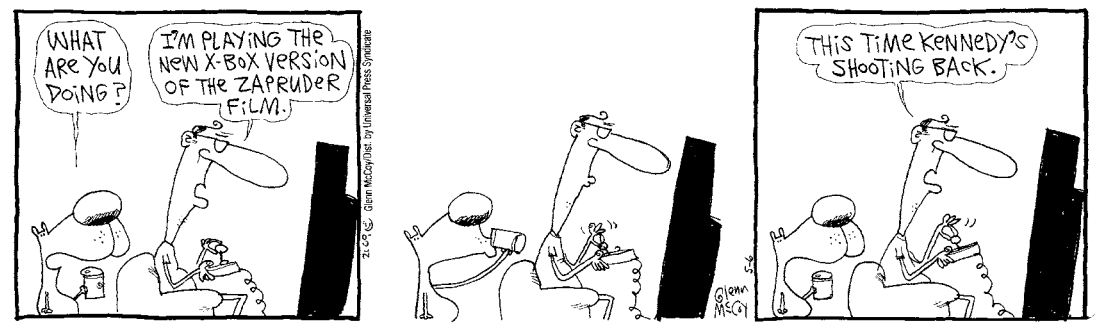
www.gocomics.com
5-6

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

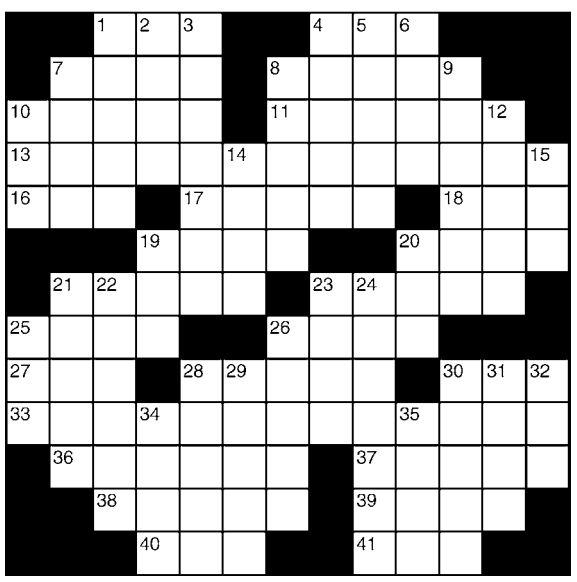
ACROSS
1 That woman
4 Gasoline stat
7 He gave us a lift
8 Hide-aways
10 Sedative, for short
11 Recently
13 1967 suspense movie
16 Anti-quated
17 Tittles
18 Fourth letter
19 Jason's carrier
20 Elite alterna-tive
21 Cash storage structures
23 Gold measure
25 Calendar abbr.
26 Staffer
27 As well
28 Green sauce
30 Feathery acces-sory
33 Star of 13-Across
36 Pakistan city
37 Ball-room favorite
38 Red Square figure
39 Vortex
40 Sailor's assent
41 P.I.

DOWN
1 Com-posed
2 Intimate
3 Knight-hood candi-date
4 Mario Puzo subject
5 Prescrip-tions, often
6 Alumnus
7 Kind of history or hygiene
8 Gambling game
9 Ancient arenas
10 Pair
12 Not slouch-ing
14 Eggy quaffs
15 Mauna —
19 Stern-ward
20 Opposite of post-
21 Asian city
22 Footless
23 Charlie Brown's nemesis?
24 Took as one's own
25 RR stop
26 Wan
28 Indiana's state flower
29 High nest (Var.)
30 Type of pan
31 Unre-strained revelry
32 Year in Acapulco
34 Comi-cal Caroline
35 Com-manded

Solution time: 21 mins.

B	L	O	B	■	N	I	L	■	U	S	S	R
R	I	P	A	■	O	R	E	■	P	L	E	A
O	R	A	L	■	M	O	O	N	W	A	L	K
W	A	L	K	M	A	N	■	E	A	G	L	E
■	■	■	A	I	D	■	F	O	R	■	■	■
B	R	O	N	X	■	M	A	N	D	A	T	E
A	D	A	■	■	T	A	X	■	■	P	A	S
D	A	T	E	N	U	T	■	L	E	T	U	P
■	■	■	S	O	X	■	J	O	T	■	■	■
A	G	A	T	E	■	N	U	T	C	A	S	E
C	A	S	E	L	O	A	D	■	H	E	A	R
E	P	E	E	■	V	I	G	■	E	R	G	O
S	E	A	M	■	A	L	E	■	D	O	E	S

Yesterday's answer 5-6



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Roma Downey, 49; George Clooney, 48; Tom Bergeron, 54; Bob Seger, 64

Happy Birthday: Focus on work and holding on to what you've got. Your serious attitude and well-thought-out plans should be enough to gain the support needed to keep you in a safe zone. Do your homework and be prepared to counteract anyone making moves on your turf. This is a time to protect, while maintaining slow growth. In the end, you will win. Your numbers are 5, 16, 20, 24, 35, 41, 44

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Difficult decisions are heading your way and the ability to act quickly and with adequate knowledge will let you win in the end. A partnership that has been going through uncertainties must be dealt with patiently. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Get serious about what you do and you will get a great response. Push for perfection and you will get the respect and the advancement you want. Avoid dealing with red tape, institutions and anyone who can tie up your valuable time today. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Speak your mind and you will be given the consideration you ask for. Don't back away from adversity when you have so much to contribute that can make a difference. A lover, child or friend will inspire you. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Good fortune is on your side, so take a chance and make a move. A journey will help you reconnect with someone you had all but forgotten. A fresh look at something you disregarded in the past will bring you hope now. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): A vacation or change of scenery will help you realize your needs and potential. Your generosity will overwhelm someone you are trying to impress but, before you give too much, consider what you are getting in return. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Get serious about a job you are working on and you will gather support, along with suggestions that will make your job easier. A money deal will position you well in other aspects of your life. Pay cash for luxury items or take a pass. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You'll be all over the map emotionally if you don't put an end to the pending problems that have you wigged-out. Say what's on your mind and you will resolve issues and make some positive adjustments. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Keep your thoughts to yourself but don't stop doing what you are doing. It's your mysterious way that will intrigue and interest people. The reactions people have will change the nature of what you are doing. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You have the upper hand but, if you are arrogant, you may fall short of your goals. A romantic encounter will leave you questioning what you should be doing with your life. Domestic changes will, in time, turn out well for you. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Make your choices based on honesty and integrity, not out of love for someone you are trying to protect. It's best to get things out in the open and deal with personal matters before it's too late. Working from home will pay off. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Your generosity may be your downfall in the end. Keep things equal if you want your relationship with friends, relatives or a lover to flourish. Don't spend for emotional reasons. Now is the time to budget. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): "Who's the boss" may come up during a misunderstanding. Strive for equality. Arguments will damage whatever partnerships you have. Be patient and offer compromises that are fair to everyone involved. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are dedicated and loyal and strive for perfection. You are passionate and bold, open-minded and an opportunist.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9	7				5	2	
2			8		1			6
			9					8
			5					4
			1					2
		6					7	
	2					9		
4					5			
1	5	9	7		4	8	6	3

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	3	7	2	4	8	1	9	5
5	9	2	1	7	6	8	3	4
1	4	8	9	5	3	2	6	7
7	2	9	4	1	5	6	8	3
8	5	1	3	6	2	7	4	9
3	6	4	8	9	7	5	1	2
9	8	5	7	3	1	4	2	6
4	1	6	5	2	9	3	7	8
2	7	3	6	8	4	9	5	1

Difficulty Level ★★ 5/05

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ICE SKATING **Solution: 7 letters**

C	H	Y	S	K	I	L	L	F	B	S	H	L	N	T
R	O	O	D	T	U	O	N	I	I	A	A	T	E	N
E	C	M	L	N	R	R	S	G	T	Y	O	M	Z	E
T	K	S	P	Y	A	I	R	U	E	U	P	E	O	M
N	E	S	S	E	M	B	D	R	R	E	T	X	R	E
I	Y	P	L	E	T	P	S	E	R	F	E	E	F	V
W	R	O	O	D	N	I	I	A	S	G	A	R	L	O
C	U	R	V	E	D	K	T	C	N	P	C	C	E	M
O	S	T	A	Z	N	U	C	I	S	C	H	I	E	L
L	R	S	R	E	R	T	X	I	O	O	D	S	T	R
D	E	E	E	E	L	E	A	N	H	N	N	E	S	I
A	T	S	N	R	L	E	B	O	O	T	S	N	O	W
N	A	H	A	F	Z	F	E	P	T	R	A	C	K	T
C	K	O	S	I	S	K	N	I	R	O	S	D	I	K
E	S	W	S	G	L	I	D	E	S	L	A	K	E	S

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Arenas, Bandy, Bend, Bite, Boot, Cold, Competitions, Control, Curved, Dance, Exercise, Feet, Figure, Flexing, Freeze, Frozen, Glides, Hockey, Indoor, Kids, Knees, Lakes, Layers, Lean, Learn, Movement, Olympics, Outdoor, Pond, Rinks, Show, Size, Skaters, Skill, Snow, Sports, Steel, Strides, Surface, Teach, Temperature, Thickness, Tour, Track, Twirl, Winter

Yesterday's Answer: Quiet Arcs

WONDERWORD offers the "Book of Celebrities," for $5.95 each (US funds only) payable to Universal Press Syndicate plus $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to **WONDERWORD**, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

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Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, vs. WILLLAM S, AGULTO and CANDELARIA Y. AGULTO, Defendants.	)))))))	Civil Action No.-08-0080-ev **AMENDED SUMMONS**

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT WILLIAM S. AGULTO AND CANDELARIA K. AGULTO

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO APPEAR by the 21st day after the fourth date of publication of this AMENDED SUMMONS and defend the above entitled action in the CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, at the Office of Clerk of Court, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Ilmwal Aweewe, House of Justice, Susupe Village, P.O, Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950-0307; and answer the complaint of the plaintiff Bank of Guam, and serve a copy of your answer upon **Robert Tenorio Torres, attorney for Plaintiff Bank of Guam, at Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya), P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.** In case of failure to do so, judgment will be rendered against you according to the demand of the COMPLAINT, which has been filed with the Clerk of Court.

So **ORDERED** this 25th day of March, 2009.

/s/ Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

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Find today's solution in this section

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES BOARD VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

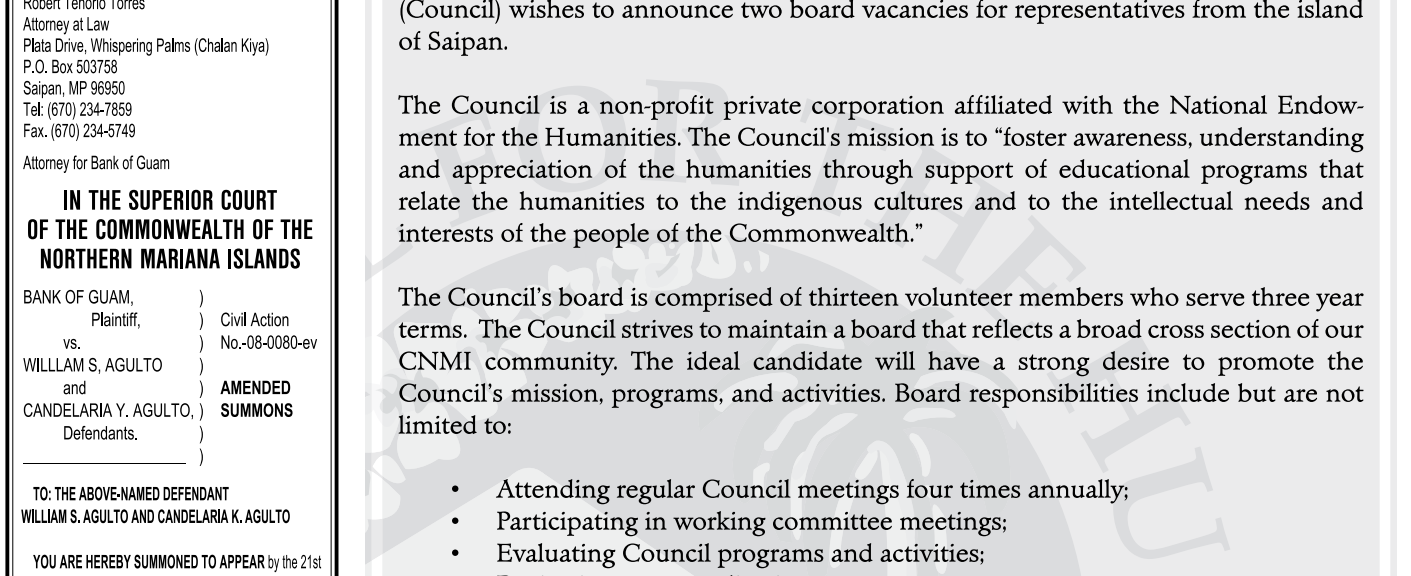
The Board of Directors for the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities (Council) wishes to announce two board vacancies for representatives from the island of Saipan.

The Council is a non-profit private corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council's mission is to "foster awareness, understanding and appreciation of the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth."

The Council's board is comprised of thirteen volunteer members who serve three year terms. The Council strives to maintain a board that reflects a broad cross section of our CNMI community. The ideal candidate will have a strong desire to promote the Council's mission, programs, and activities. Board responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular Council meetings four times annually;
- Participating in working committee meetings;
- Evaluating Council programs and activities;
- Reviewing grant applications;
- Raising funds and recruiting community partners;
- Providing input from various community members, and
- Attending conferences, workshops and other meetings on behalf of the Humanities Council.

Interested individuals are invited to submit their letters of interest and resumes to Dr. Debra T. Cabrera, Chair, Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities at Post Office Box 506437 Saipan, MP 96950 or may be delivered to the NMI Council for the Humanities office, located at the Kings Plaza Commercial Building in Dan Dan, Saipan. For additional information, please contact the Council's Executive Director at telephone 235-4785 or visit the Council's website at http://nmihumanities.org.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CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

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• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

LeBron returns home to collect NBA MVP

AKRON, Ohio (AP)—On one of the biggest days of his life, LeBron James took the long way home. Once inside his hometown's city limits, James pulled his high-powered Ferrari off I-77 and drove the back roads to St. Vincent-St. Mary High School, his alma mater.

Turning on Maple Street, he went past his first house on Hickory. Then, it was past the one on Silver Street, where his mother, Gloria, began raising him by herself. James visited The Boondocks, where he and his friends first dribbled on the playgrounds.

James retraced the steps on Monday. His path to NBA superstardom.

An unstoppable offensive force who became an elite defender this season, James claimed the league MVP, receiving the award in the gym where he first became a star.

"This is a place where all my dreams started and where I thought they could become real," James said. "There's really not a better place."

The Ohio kid anointed King James as a teenager has a new crown.

An MVP vote some expected to be close was another slam dunk by James. He received 109 of a possible 121 first-place votes to easily outdistance Kobe Bryant of the Los Angeles Lakers. James totaled 1,172 points in balloting by media members in the U.S. and Canada.

Bryant, last year's winner, got two first-place votes and finished with 698 points. Miami guard Dwyane Wade was third with 680 points and was named first on seven ballots. Orlando center Dwight Howard (328) was fourth followed by New Orleans guard Chris Paul (192).

The race was never in doubt. It was James all along.

"I'm 24 years old and I'm receiving this award, I never thought it would happen this fast," he said, standing under three state title banners he helped win for the Fighting Irish. "I never dreamed about being MVP, but if I said I didn't enjoy this award I'd be lying. Hard work pays off and dreams do come true."

James is the first Cavaliers player to win the award. He averaged 28.4 points, 7.6 rebounds and 7.2 assists this season, his sixth as a pro. He also finished second in voting for defensive player of the year, making him perhaps the league's most dominant two-way player since Michael Jordan.

Along with a trophy, James was given a new car, which he donated to a local charity.

After learning he won, James knew he wanted to share it with family and friends. He knew there was only one place to do it: At his beloved St. V., the school where he was a high school phenom.

As James—who got a police escort for the final miles—drove up about an hour before the ceremony in his metallic gray $225,000 car with W1TNES vanity license plates, a crowd chanting "M-V-P" rushed into the street outside the school.

The scene was more civil later when James took the stage and was serenaded by hundreds of students sitting in the same bleachers he used to.

The setting was fitting for James, who earlier this year had the words "Loyalty" and "Family" tattooed vertically along his rib cage.

AP

After accepting the NBA Most Valuable Player award during a ceremony at James' alma mater, Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary High School, in Akron, Ohio on Monday, May 4, 2009, Cleveland Cavaliers LeBron James hands the trophy to his son Lebron Jr., 4. Watching are James girlfriend Savannah Brinson and their youngest son Bryce.

In the past, the MVP trophy has been presented at team practice facilities or arenas. But James wanted a special location.

League spokesman Brian McIntyre said the intimate ceremony was unlike any before.

"When he heard what LeBron wanted to do, we gave it about a second's thought, and said that's a great idea," he said. "This was wonderful."

James credited his Cavaliers teammates, who attended the ceremony along with coach Mike Brown, for raising their games in Cleveland's best season ever. The Cavs went 66-16, 39-2 at home and earned the top seed in the playoffs—a franchise first.

"Individual accolades come when team success happens," James said. "You look at those 14 guys over there, I got the award because of them. They put in the work."

James invited his teammates to the podium and presented each with an expensive camera.

"This award is going to be like the both of ours, but I'm going to keep it at my house," he cracked.

At 24 years, 106 days on the final day of the regular season, James is the youngest player to win the award since Moses Malone (24 years, 16 days) in 1978-79. Wes Unseld was 23 when he won it in 1968-69.

James vied all season for MVP honors with Bryant and Wade, his teammates on the U.S. gold medalist Olympic team last summer.

"He deserved it," Wade said. "I said all year, I thought LeBron was the MVP of this league. He's a guy who every year is going to be in that conversation. ... He showed it all year, especially with his team's success."

Focused from the start, the 6-foot-8, 250-pound James sharpened his already formidable skills this season.

He started a career-high 81 games and set personal bests in field-goal (49) and free-throw (79) percentages as well as blocks (93). James became the second player to post five straight seasons of at least 27 points, six rebounds and six assists. The other is Robertson, whose versatile game is the one to which James' is most often compared.

James nearly averaged a triple-double - 32 points, 11.3 rebounds and 7.5 assists - as the top-seeded Cavaliers breezed through the first round of the playoffs, sweeping Detroit in four games. Cleveland hosts the Atlanta Hawks in Game 1 on Tuesday.

"My mission hasn't been completed," James said. "I still I have a lot of things I want to do this season. I want to have another celebration in June."

With his longtime girlfriend, Savannah, and their two sons sitting up front, James thanked his family, friends and former teammates during a touching speech. Promising not to cry, he spoke fondly of his mom, who struggled to raise her only son.

"I don't know how you did it," James said.

Better than anyone, Gloria James understood her son's trip through his old neighborhoods.

"It didn't surprise me," she said. "He has never forgotten where he came from."

Soon, it was time for James to head home, a place he never left.

Rockets outmuscle Lakers 100-92 in series opener

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Blood flowed, players were sprawled on the court and the Houston Rockets came into Staples Center and outmuscled Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers in Game 1 of the Western Conference semifinals.

Yao Ming, who briefly left with a knee injury in the closing minutes, had 28 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Rockets to a physical 100-92 victory in Game 1 of the Western Conference semifinals.

Ron Artest added 21 points and Aaron Brooks had 19 for the Rockets, who are in the second round since 1997.

Bryant, who finished a distant second to LeBron James in NBA MVP voting announced earlier Monday, scored 32 points, doing his best to keep the Lakers in the game despite missing practice on Sunday with a sore throat. He scored 22 of the Lakers' final 42 points.

Houston forward Shane Battier needed four stitches to close a gash over his left eye late in the first quarter.

Although the Rockets took the brunt of the hits, Yao was too much for the Lakers. The Rockets were much livelier on offense and wrested away homecourt advantage from the top-seeded Lakers.

Game 2 is Wednesday night in Los Angeles.

Bryant drove on Yao in the key and the two collided, with Yao falling to the court. Los Angeles' Pau Gasol picked up the ball for a slam dunk that pulled the Lakers to 85-79 with 4:54 left.

Yao grabbed his knee and grimaced in pain as he sat on the court. After being tended to, he limped off the court. Moments later, after stretching his knee in the tunnel, he was back in the game.

Yao had eight points after coming back; a jumper and six free throws. He made all 10 of his free throws.

Battier was cut over his left eye and had blood streaming down his face in the closing seconds of the first quarter. He was hit when Los Angeles' Sasha Vujacic swatted a loose ball out to Bryant. The force of the impact knocked Battier to the ground.

Workers spent a few minutes wiping blood off the court.

Battier returned late in the second quarter.

Earlier in the quarter, the Lakers' Pau Gasol had trainers work on a cut over his left eye, and Gasol returned to the game, finishing with 14 points and 13 rebounds.

The Lakers trailed 59-50 with just less than 6 minutes left in the third quarter after Artest hit a 3-pointer. Bryant scored 11 of the Lakers' last 14 points in the quarter, which ended with the Rockets ahead 70-67.

Bryant made three jumpers in just over than 2 minutes, helping keep the Lakers close as both Yao and Brooks drove the baseline for dunks.

Magic 95, Celtics 90

At Boston, Dwight Howard returned from his one-game suspension to get 16 points and 22 rebounds Monday night and help the Orlando Magic hold off the late-charging Boston Celtics 95-90 in the opener of the Eastern Conference semifinals.

The Magic opened a 28-point lead early in the second half before Boston cut the deficit to 91-87 in the final 2 minutes. The Celtics had several chances to come within one possession—the best Ray Allen's 3-pointer that rimmed out with 43 seconds left.

Paul Pierce made a 3-pointer with 6.6 seconds left to make it a three-point game, but J.J. Redick went 4-for-4 from the line in the last 14 seconds to ice it.

"We got complacent as a team, stopped doing what we did to get the lead and against a good Celtics team you can't do that," Howard said. "I'm not happy with the way we ended the game."

Pierce scored 16 of his 23 points in the second half and Rajon Rondo had 14 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists.

Game 2 is Wednesday night in Boston.

Kendrick Perkins had 16 rebounds for Boston, but Rondo and Allen both went 2 of 12 from the field. The Magic had a cold spell of their own in the fourth quarter, going just 5 of 20 from the field to lose most of a once-dominating lead that had the Boston fans booing their team off the court at halftime.

Boston had just one day off since eliminating the Chicago Bulls in a best-of-seven series—7 3/4, actually—one many consider the best first-round playoff series in NBA history. The teams played a record four overtime games and seven overtimes periods in all—nearly three extra quarters of basketball.

Orlando finished off Philadelphia in six games on Thursday night, and Howard has been resting up even longer: He was suspended for the series finale for elbowing Sixers center Samuel Dalembert.

"It felt like I was out 10 games," Howard said. "I was a little rusty. We'll be ready for Game 2."

Celtics backup point guard Stephon Marbury, who was little help in the Bulls series, made consecutive rainbow scoop shots and added two more baskets in a span of just over 2 minutes to help Boston erase an early five-point deficit and take a 30-28 lead with 8:43 left in the first half.

But the Magic scored 26 of the final 32 points in the first half and then scored 11 of the first 12 in the third quarter to open a 65-37 lead.

The Celtics used a 15-4 run to get the lead under 20 points and came as close as 74-60 near the end of the third quarter. Mickael Pietrus hit a 3-pointer to make it 81-64, then Boston scored seven straight points, getting a jumper from Pierce, a 3-pointer off a jump ball from Eddie House and then Rondo's steal and dunk to make it a 10-point game.

It was the first time the crowd got back into it since the opening quarter.

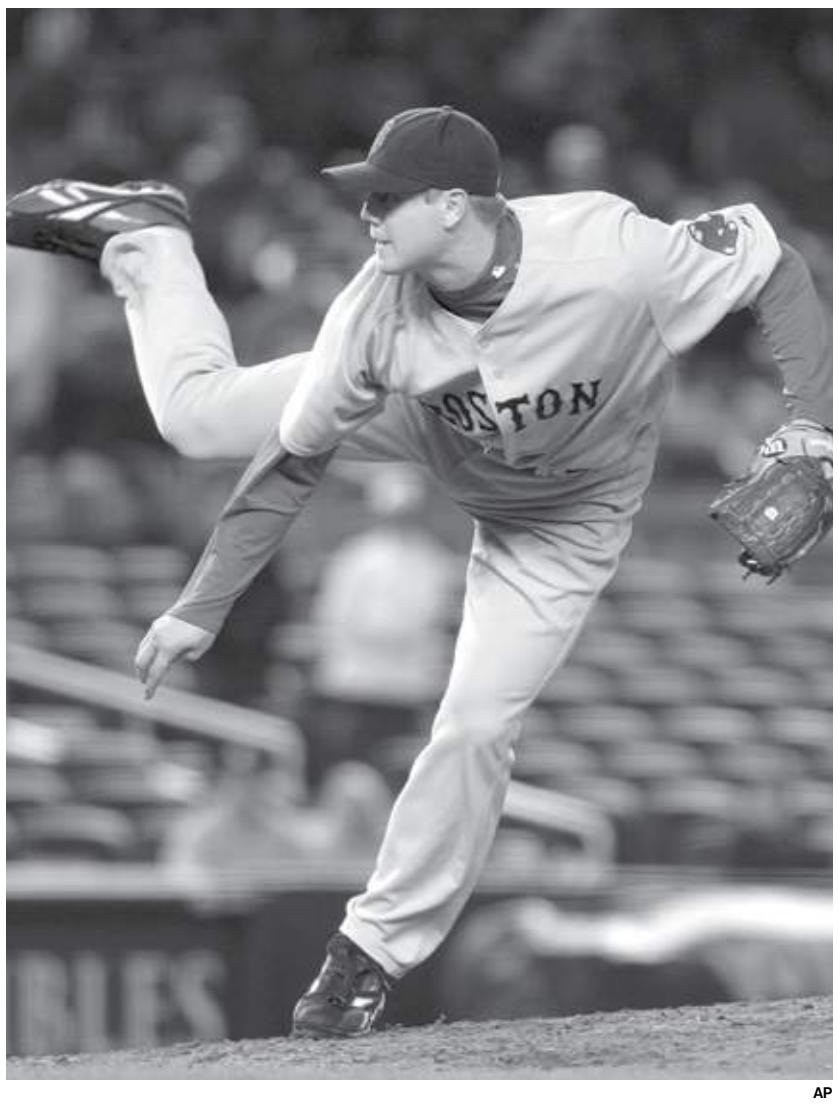
Red Sox win first game at new Yankee Stadium

NEW YORK (AP)—Jon Lester matched a career high with 10 strikeouts, Mike Lowell and Jason Bay homered and the Red Sox held off the Yankees in a rain-delayed game that ended at 1:10 a.m.

Jonathan Papelbon pitched 1 2-3 innings for his seventh save, striking out Robinson Cano with the bases loaded to finish it.

Slumping David Ortiz doubled twice as the Red Sox improved to 4-0 this season against their longtime rival.

Switch-hitter Mark Teixeira homered from each side of the plate and Johnny Damon also connected for the Yankees. There have been 36 home runs at the stadium, a record for the first 10 games at a major league park.



AP

Boston Red Sox reliever Jonathan Papelbon follows through after delivering an eighth inning pitch in the Red Sox's baseball game against the New York Yankees at Yankee Stadium in New York, Tuesday, May 5, 2009.

Royals 3, White Sox 0

At Kansas City, Mo., Zack Greinke struck out 10 in a six-hitter and became the majors' first six-game winner with his second shutout in four starts, leading the Kansas City Royals to a win over the Chicago White Sox.

More than 6,500 fans bought walk-up tickets—pushing the attendance over 21,000—to watch Greinke pitch and he didn't disappoint.

Orioles 8, Rays 4

At St. Petersburg, Fla., Nick Markakis hit a three-run homer and Brian Roberts added a two-run shot to help the Orioles stop a six-game losing streak with a victory over the Rays.

Markakis, after the first two Baltimore batters walked, made it 3-0 with his three-run shot off Scott Kazmir (3-3) in the first. He has a hit in 19 of his last 20 games, and has reached base safely in 35 straight games, which is the longest active streak in the majors.

Twins 7, Tigers 2

At Detroit, Francisco Liriano had a season-high nine strikeouts and Michael Cuddyer hit a two-run triple in a five-run seventh, leading the Twins to a win over the Tigers.

Liriano (1-4) allowed four hits, matching a season low, and two runs over 7 1-3 innings to snap his five-game skid dating to last season.

Indians 9, Blue Jays 7

At Toronto, Josh Barfield singled home the go-ahead run in the 12th inning and the Indians beat the Blue Jays.

Mark DeRosa opened the 12th with a double to right off Shawn Camp (0-1). One out later, Luis Valbuena walked and Barfield followed with a single up the middle, scoring DeRosa.

Angels 5, Athletics 2

At Oakland, Calif., Torii Hunter drove in three runs, Joe Saunders pitched six-hit ball into the seventh inning and the Angels beat the Athletics for their fifth win in seven games.

The California clubs met for the first time since April 8, when Nick Adenhart pitched six scoreless innings against the A's. The rookie right-hander was killed in a car accident hours later.

Rangers 6, Mariners 5

At Seattle, Chris Davis hit a tiebreaking two-run homer off Felix Hernandez in the sixth inning and the Rangers beat the Mariners.

Davis' drive gave Texas a 6-4 lead and sent Kevin Millwood to his first win over Seattle in his last six starts. Michael Young also hit a two-run drive off Hernandez as the Rangers increased their major league-leading home run total to 46.

Mets 6, Braves 4

At Atlanta, Carlos Beltran hit a pair of two-run homers, David Wright added a two-run shot of his own and the New York Mets beat the Atlanta Braves to match their 2008 total for wins at Turner Field.

The Mets, who went 1-8 in Atlanta last season, improved to 30-63 at Turner Field since the start of the 1998 season.

Phillies 6, Cardinals 1

At St. Louis, Ryan Howard hit his seventh career grand slam, tying Hall of Famer Mike Schmidt for the Phillies record, in a victory over the Cardinals that included a frightening injury to Rick Ankiel.

The Cardinals' outfielder crashed headfirst into the fence after chasing down a line drive to the gap in the eighth inning. He was carted off the field strapped to a gurney and wearing a neck brace.

Dodgers 7, Diamondbacks 2

At Los Angeles, the Dodgers became the first National League team since 1900 to win their first 11 home games, overcoming an Arizona triple play to beat the Diamondbacks with a homer and three RBIs from Manny Ramirez.

The defending NL West champions broke the previous league record for longest home winning streak to start a season, set by the 1918 New York Giants and equaled by the 1970 Chicago Cubs and 1983 Atlanta Braves—who were managed by current Dodgers skipper Joe Torre.

Brewers 7, Pirates 4

At Pittsburgh, Rickie Weeks hit a tiebreaking, three-run homer in the ninth after a supposedly unavailable Ryan Braun tied it an inning earlier with a two-run double, helping the Brewers rally for a victory over the Pirates.

The Brewers scored six runs in the final two innings to earn their 16th consecutive victory over Pittsburgh. It's the longest winning streak in the majors by one team against another since the Diamondbacks took 16 in a row from the Reds from 2001-03.

Nationals 9, Astros 4

At Washington, Adam Dunn delivered a two-run single during a five-run sixth inning, Ryan Zimmerman matched a career high with four hits and the Nationals rallied to beat the Astros.

Zimmerman's first-inning single extended his Nationals-record hitting streak to 22 games. It's the longest in the majors this season.

Cubs 4, Giants 2

At Chicago, Ryan Theriot hit another home run, Ryan Dempster pitched seven strong innings and the Cubs beat the Giants.

Theriot hit a two-run drive in the second inning for his third homer in the last four games. He entered the month with just seven career homers, never more than three in a season.

Marlins 3, Reds 2, 14 innings

At Miami, a throwing error by shortstop Paul Janish sent home the winning run in the 14th inning, and the Marlins retained the NL East lead by beating the Reds.

With runners at first and second and none out, Jorge Cantu grounded to first baseman Joey Votto, who threw to second for a forceout. Janish's relay bounced past pitcher Daniel Herrera (0-1), who was covering first, and Ronny Paulino scored without a play.

Rockies 9, Padres 6

At San Diego, Chris Iannetta hit a go-ahead grand slam in the seventh inning and the Rockies beat San Diego, sending the Padres to their sixth straight loss.

Glendon Rusch (2-0) went one inning for the win. Huston Street threw a perfect ninth for his third save in three chances.

The loss, San Diego's 12th in 14 games, dropped the Padres into last place in the NL West, percentage points behind Colorado.

Inspectors examine Cowboys' flattened facility

IRVING, Texas (AP)—Government inspectors sorted through the Dallas Cowboys' flattened practice facility Monday, trying to figure out why fierce winds sent the tentlike structure crashing during a rookie workout session.

Twelve people were hurt, including Cowboys special teams coach Joe DeCamillis, who was set for surgery Monday on his fractured cervical vertebrae. The most seriously hurt was Rich Behm, the team's 33-year-old scouting assistant who was permanently paralyzed from the waist down after his spine was severed. Greg Gaither, 35, had surgery on his fractured right leg and was expected to get out of the hospital this week.

Inspectors were at the collapse site, said Elizabeth Todd, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration. OSHA, which investigates workplace accidents, has six months to make a report, she said.

Records obtained by The Associated Press show that the city of Irving granted a request by the Cowboys to replace the fabric roof last year, five years after the structure was built. The team listed itself as the contractor for the roof replacement, but Cowboys spokesman Rich Dalrymple said the team would not comment about the work.

The company that built the facility—Summit Structures LLC of Allentown, Pa.—said in a statement that proper engineering was used during the original construction and the installation of the new roof. Summit president Nathan Stobbe said he was in Irving on Monday, working with team and local officials to "fully assess this severe weather event." The company said it has few answers now on precisely what happened.

About 70 people, including 27 players at a rookie minicamp, were inside when the storm hit. Winds were clocked at 64 mph, 1 mph shy of the threshold for a weak tornado. A "microburst" may have pushed the wind beyond 70 mph at the top of the structure, National Weather Service officials said

Behm, DeCamillis and Gaither were on the field when the $4 million structure gave way, sending framework, lights and other debris crashing to the ground.

Most players at the minicamp were drafted the previous weekend or signed as undrafted rookies, but none was hurt. No veterans were involved. Coaches, support staff and media were also in the no-frills building, essentially a 100-yard football field with a few more yards of clearance all the way around. The roof was 80 feet high.

Media were restricted from the Cowboys headquarters through at least a week because of "ongoing work that is scheduled to take place in the aftermath of the accident."

Summit lists on its Web site several other facilities it built, including one at Texas A&M and one for the New England Patriots. The company also said it built the Windstar Casino just across the Texas state line in Oklahoma.

A&M athletic director Bill Byrne said the school has had no problems but will review its policy on practicing in bad weather in light of this collapse.

"Our facility was put to the test this past fall when Hurricane Ike hit the Texas gulf coast," he said in a statement. "Our buildings withstood the high winds and our football team was not in the facility at that time."

A Pennsylvania court ruled in 2006 that Summit was negligent in the design and construction of a membrane-covered building that collapsed in 2003 after a major snowstorm in Philadelphia. The building was constructed for the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority.

City construction records list Manhattan Construction Group as the contractor and Summit as the structural engineer. Manhattan is the general contractor for the new Cowboys stadium that will open next season in Arlington.

Bob Bowen, Manhattan's executive vice president, said his Oklahoma company helped protect the outdoor practice field from damage during construction but all the planning and work was done by Summit.

In a 2003 letter to Irving Fire Chief Paul White, Cowboys director of football operations Bruce Mays described the planned facility as a "semi-permanent structure supported by lightweight steel trusses and clad with a fire resistant polymer fabric."

Mays said preliminary discussions between the team and the city concluded the building was a "unique type of structure and there could be a variety of interpretations as to what standards should be applied in evaluating the structure to comply with building and fire codes."

Gary Miller, Irving's director of planning and inspections, said the city felt comfortable with the project when it issued a certificate of occupancy. He noted the building was engineered correctly, had a reputable contractor and passed all inspections.

Rangers dominate SML statistics

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ford Rangers players are lording it over in the individual statistics released by organizers of the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League Baseball.

As of April 27, Rangers players are on top of four categories and also in the Top 5 or Top 10 of three other departments.

Pete Tomokane leads the league in most doubles with seven, Dave Camacho has the most triples with three, Juan Iguel has scored the most runs with 17, and Benwachi Taisacan is tied with two others in the home run race with one. The Tanapag Falcons' B.J. Sablan and J.D. Dikito were the only two other players who made a homer so far in the league.

Sablan is also ahead in most RBIs with 13 and in the batting race with his .565 average. The big-hitting Falcons first baseman went 13-for-23 at bat.

Tomokane

Joining him in the Top 10 of the batting race were four Rangers sluggers, one Falcons teammate, two D-9ers players, and one each from the IT&E Young Guns, Rock Steady, and Korean Phoenix.

Sablan's teammate, Mike Pangelinan, is currently in second place after hitting 13-for-25 for a batting average of .520. D9-ers' John Acosta occupies the third spot with a batting average of .517 (15-for-29), followed by the Young Guns and the league's reigning MVP Tyrone Omar, .481 (13-for-29); the Rangers' Juan Iguel, .466 (14-for-30); D-9ers' Jeff Tenorio, .461 (10-for-26); the Rangers' Tomokane, .450 (9-for-22) and Dave Camacho, .441 (15-for-34); Rock Steady's Byron Kaipat, .440 (11-for-25); and Korean Phoenix's Jang Jin Hyak, .434 (10-for-23).

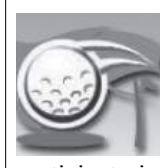
The Top 10 leaders in the batting race were based on 22 or more times at bat

In the pitching race, Young Guns' Harry Nakamura is ahead with his 0.70 ERA. Nakamura pitched in 20 innings and had only two errors. Two of the next four places belong to Rangers pitchers with Dung Tenorio (1.23 ERA) in second, Rock Steady's Vincent Sablan in third (1.34 ERA), and the Rangers' Kelvin Kapileo (1.61) and D9-ers' Mel Sakisat (1.82) in fourth and fifth spot, respectively.

Vincent Sablan has the most strikeouts so far with 34, beating Thomas Joab's 33, Sakisat' 26, Choi Hong Kun's 20, and Nakamura' s 19.

Pending Friday's game results, the Rangers are on top of the team standings with a 7-1 slate, followed by Rock Steady (6-2), D-9ers (6-2), Young Guns (4-5), Tanapag Falcons (4-6), O'Connor Tigers (2-6), and Korean Phoenix (0-7).

RGA ties up with MCS golf tourney



Refaluwasch Golf Association is encouraging its members to participate in the 7th Annual Mount Carmel School Golf Tournament, as the event set for May 9 on the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort will also double as a RGA May qualifier.

"We are urging RGA members to join this worthy endeavor, as this is one way of helping our community," RGA tournament director Jess Wabol said.

Wabol said RGA members who will be playing in the MCS golf tournament will only pay an extra $20 (for RGA May qualifier fee), instead of the usual qualifier fee of $30.

Registration for the MCS fundraiser is set for 6:30am and tee time an hour later at 7:30am. The competition was originally scheduled last March 14, but was moved to this Saturday due to scheduling problems.

Trophies and other gift prizes will be awarded to the Top 3 winners in the Championship, A Flight, B Flight, C Flight, Seniors Flight, and Ladies Flight.

An awards banquet will be held immediately following the tournament at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort grounds.

Although the tournament has no entry fee, participants are requested to donate $100 to help support the only Catholic school on Saipan. The donation will cover greens and cart fees, as well as prizes and the awards banquet.

For more information about the Mount Carmel School Golf Tournament, call Louise Concepcion at 235-1285 or Margaret Dela Cruz at 235-1251.

For more information on the RGA qualifier, contact Wabol at 288-1129 or Jordon Kosam at 483-4503. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

Islanders rally to reign in 'Gorilla Games'

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Islanders capped their reign in the "Gorilla Games" in the World Organized Rocball Community League with a come-from-behind win over Fanians Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Fanians gave the Islanders the stiff challenge no other teams had put up in the latter's five straight win in the biweekly tournament. But still the Islanders came out the winners, pulling off an 110-108 overtime win in the "Gorilla Games" finale.

Besides getting the bragging rights of being the undisputed kings of "Gorilla Games," the Islanders also won $250.

Fanians had several opportunities to upset the Islanders, as the former had the momentum early in the finale after winning the opening set, 25-14.

Leaning on their backcourt spikes, net kills, and dinks, the Islanders recovered with a 28-24 win in the second set. Despite the second-set triumph, the Islanders were still behind at halftime, 42-49.

In first few minutes of the third set, the Islanders were in control and held the lead for the last time at 20-19, before a Juluis Saito goal shifted the momentum back to Fanians. Fanians went to nail a 26-20 victory and entered the fourth set with a 75-62 lead.

The Islanders were pressed to win the fourth set to extend the game and they delivered under pressure with a 25-16 victory.

After prevailing in the fourth set, the Islanders headed to a tougher task, as they needed to beat Fanians twice in overtime to keep their reign in the tournament. Fanians needed only one victory in overtime to steal the crown.

The Islanders picked up where they left off in the first overtime set, notching an emphatic 12-1 win

The second overtime set was a close fight with four lead changes. Both teams played tough defense, but it was the Islanders' prolific offense anchored on spikes and dinks that gave them a 10-6 win and the "Gorilla Games" title.

NMASA meeting set tomorrow

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association will have its monthly meeting tomorrow, May 7, 7pm at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

As always, NMASA president Michael White said member associations will vote for the best athletes for the previous month (April) in four categories (male, female, male student, and female student) during the monthly general membership meeting.

White reminded associations that will be nominating their athletes to submit written nominations in multiple copies to be distributed to members during the meeting. ***(PR)***

NATIONAL

From Page 28

In the 18-and-under division, the winner's list included Hee Yun Daniel Kim, Jacque Wonenberg, Juan Iguel, Deborah Duhig, Douglas Dillay, Untalan, Pamela Deleon Guerrero, Trevor Ogumoro, Lia Rangamar, Anthony Foster, Mike Iguel, and Kroy Ogumoro.

The 14-and-under age group, which drew more than 20 participants, had Bo Barry, Brandon Phillip, Dorothy Jebehn, Victoria Reyes, Tori Reyes, Justin Poon, Christopher Lam, and Christian Tudela as first placers.

The 12-and-under category had the most participants with around 70 student-athletes. After hours of competition, making it to the top winners group were Jeremy Lizama, Dionne Deleon Guerrero, Phalai Frink, Jin Pyo Jeon, Tammy Silio, Angelo Jones, Gabrielle Race, Zarinae Sapong, Joel Demapan, Monica Sepia, and Jerry Rodriguez.

In the 10-and-under age group, more than 40 joined the running, throwing, and jumping events of the one-day national meet and 10 emerged as top finishers. They were Juan Quitugua, Kelena Saures, Lucy Park, Juan Kitigwen, Mark Catindig, Donn Malwelbug, Maria Olupumar, William Johnson, Kalea Andrew, and Austin Aguon.

The CNMI championships also featured competitions in the 8-and-under age group, which attracted around 30 participants. In the end, seven stood tall and they were Carlos Aguon, Janelle Reyes, Anthony Deleon Guerrero, Miyuki Muna, A.J. Hudkins, Jeremy Okaruru, and John Santos.

Northern Marianas Athletics, which organized the meet, also held relay races (4x400m and 4x100m) in each age group.

The national championships doubled as a qualifier for the 2009 McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Meet.

Only the top six placers in the Saipan qualifier will advance to the All Schools event. The two remaining slots are reserved for Rota and Tinian students. In case Tinian and Rota do not have participants in an event, the next two finishers will take the slots. Also, student-athletes are allowed to join only four events.

In the championships, the Top 3 students in each event will receive medals, while NMA will award trophies to the Top 3 schools.

Schools will get points based on how their students finished in each event. First finisher gets 10 points, eight for second, six for third, four for fifth, two for fifth, and one for sixth.

This year's All Schools meet has been moved from May 9 to May 16 to give schools more time to prepare for the tournament.

For more information about the schedule of qualifiers, contact NMA's Elias Rangamar at 664-2502 or via email at eli_rang@yahoo.com.

LADY

From Page 28

player to tally more than one field goal for the Lady Geckos and things turned from bad to worse for the dethroned champions when they made only a point in the second quarter.

At halftime, the Lady Knights' lead ballooned to 11 points, 25-14, and they tasted their biggest lead at the end of the third with the Lebria sisters and Calvo taking charge.

MCS 36 – Calvo 12, N, Lebria 10, K. Lebria 7, Cielo 2, J. Camacho 2, Burger 2.

SIS 32 – Mailman 10, Oestreich 8, Roberts 5, Jewell 3, Camacho 3.

Scoring by quarters: 19-13, 25-14, 32-19, 36-32.

SAIPAN

From Page 28

the Philippines.

"Many of the pros vowed to come back next year and bring at least five of their friends," said president Wolf Mojica of event organizer Taga, Inc. "The execution of both events was almost flawless."

The two events had 254 total participants, 43 more than in 2008. Sam Gardner of the United Kingdom and Renata Bucher from Switzerland took the top spots in XTERRA, which had 134 total participants, including 63 individual finishers and six teams. The shorter XTERRA Sport had seven individual finishers and three teams. Thirty-seven runners joined the XTERRA Sunset Trail Run. The Tagaman had 51 individual finishers, 19 teams, and 18 children participating in the TagaKids.

"Saipan Sports Fest is attractive for competitors of all strengths and ages," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio. "It's for professionals, serious competitors, and those out for a healthy 5K or 10K run. With the inclusion of children races, the Sports Fest also makes a perfect vacation for the sports-minded family."

Next year will mark the 9th XTERRA Saipan and 21st Tagaman Triathlon on Saipan.

"Now that you've heard of it, you can mark your calendar for Saipan Sportsfest 2010: XTERRA Saipan Championships on March 13 and Tagaman on March 20," said Tenorio. ***(PR)***

DRAWS

From Page 28

4th best to Pool A, the 5th best to Pool A, and the 6th best team to Pool B.

In addition to Australia, the CNMI men will face traditional rival Guam, along with New Caledonia. The CNMI women will also get to play Guam, along with New Zealand and defending SPG gold medalist Fiji.

After pool play concludes, the two top-ranked teams from each pool will advance to the medal round, while the remaining two teams from each pool will play teams from the other pool in the classification round.

Gold sponsors for the tournament so far include Tan Holdings and the Joeten Charitable Foundation. The organizing committee expects to close sponsorship arrangements with other companies within the next few days.

BANMI president Elias Rangamar expressed his appreciation to all of the official sponsors and other contributors, especially the Marianas Visitors Authority, and noted that additional sponsorships are still available for companies who want to take advantage of associating with this prestigious tournament.

For further information about sponsorship opportunities, contact Rangamar at 664-2502, or Mike White at 234-6547. ***(PR)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	18	10	.643	-
Boston	16	10	.615	1
New York	13	12	.520	3 1/2
Tampa Bay	11	16	.407	6 1/2
Baltimore	10	16	.385	7

Central Division

Kansas City	15	11	.577	-
Detroit	13	12	.520	1 1/2
Minnesota	13	13	.500	2
Chicago	12	12	.500	2
Cleveland	10	16	.385	5

West Division

Seattle	14	11	.560	-
Texas	13	12	.520	1
Los Angeles	11	13	.458	2 1/2
Oakland	9	14	.391	4

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Florida	15	11	.577	-
Philadelphia	13	10	.565	1/2
New York	11	13	.458	3
Atlanta	11	14	.440	3 1/2
Washington	7	17	.292	7

Central Division

St. Louis	17	9	.654	-
Chicago	14	11	.560	2 1/2
Milwaukee	14	12	.538	3
Cincinnati	13	12	.520	3 1/2
Pittsburgh	12	13	.480	4 1/2
Houston	11	15	.423	6

West Division

Los Angeles	19	8	.704	-
San Francisco	12	12	.500	5 1/2
Arizona	11	15	.423	7 1/2
San Diego	11	15	.423	7 1/2
Colorado	10	14	.417	7 1/2

Yesterday's Games

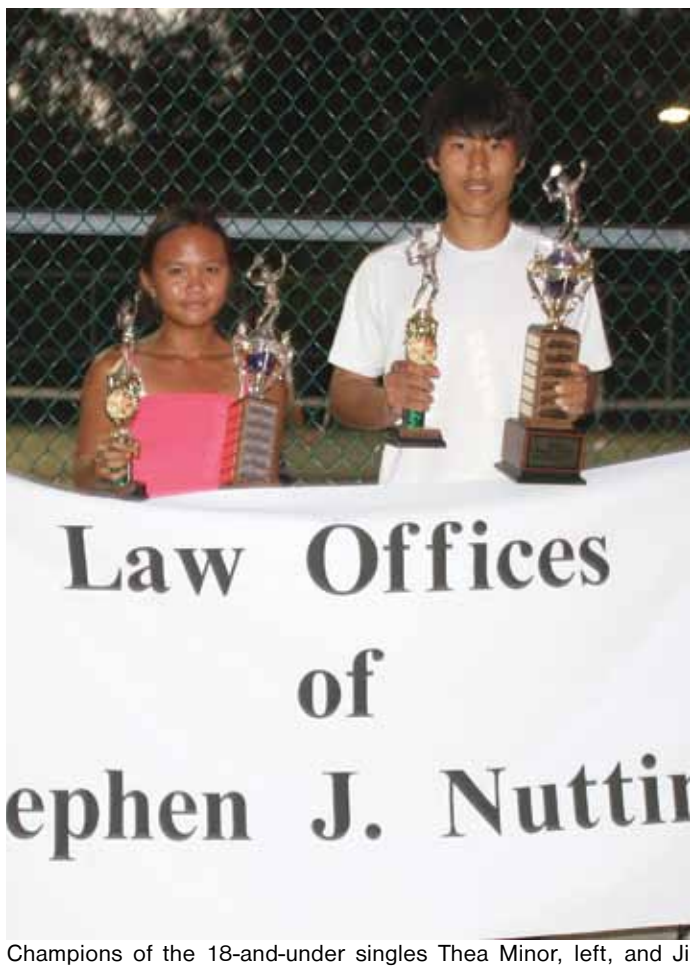
Milwaukee 7, Pittsburgh 4
Washington 9, Houston 4
N.Y. Mets 6, Atlanta 4
Florida 3, Cincinnati 2, 14 innings
Chicago Cubs 4, San Francisco 2
Philadelphia 6, St. Louis 1
Colorado 9, San Diego 6
L.A. Dodgers 7, Arizona 2
Boston 6, N.Y. Yankees 4
Minnesota 7, Detroit 2
Cleveland 9, Toronto 7, 12 innings
Baltimore 8, Tampa Bay 4
Kansas City 3, Chicago White Sox 0
L.A. Angels 5, Oakland 2
Texas 6, Seattle 5

By The Associated Press

2009 CNMI Junior Championships

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Daniel Park goes for a forehand return during the boys' 14-and-under division game in the 2009 CNMI Junior Championships at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.



Champions of the 18-and-under singles Thea Minor, left, and Ji Hoon Heo.

Quintin Ramsey hits a low ball during his match against Chris Cajigan in the boys' 14-and-under division.

Lucas Nutting serves during his game against Daniel Park in the boys' 14-and-under division singles.

Boys' 14-and-under champion Rafael Jones serves against Christian Miller.

Girls' 14-and-under runner-up Neghar Rastguiy, left, and champion Melody Johnson show their trophies.

Boys' 14-and-under finalists Rafael Jones, left, and Christian Miller with their trophies.

Boys' 10-and-under champion Carl Dela Cruz, left, and Colin Ramsey are all smiles as they receive their trophies.

Boys' 14-and-under doubles winners, from left, Chris Cajigan and Carl Dela Cruz (champions), and Aaron and Jake Lee (runners-up).

From left, girls' 14-and-under doubles runners-up Gabrielle Race and Neghar Rastguiy pose with champions Alina Ishikawa and Adele Hudkins.

LeBron returns home to collect NBA MVP

On one of the biggest days of his life, LeBron James took the long way home. Once inside his hometown's city limits, James pulled his high-powered Ferrari off I-77 and drove the back roads to St. Vincent-St. Mary High School, his alma mater. **24**

Saipan Tribune Sports

Rangers dominate SML statistics

Ford Rangers players are lording it over in the individual statistics released by organizers of the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League Baseball.

26

National track meet attracts crowd

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Community School's James Ko competes in the boys' 14-and-under high jump event during the 2009 CNMI National Track and Field Championships Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2009 CNMI National Track and Field Championships held Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex drew around 200 participants with familiar names in the older age group living up to expectations and new faces in the younger age division showing promise.

World championships veteran Tyrone Omar was among those who delivered in the Saturday meet. He won in the 100m run, shot put, and discus throw in the open division.

Other top winners in the open category were Yvonne Bennett (100m and 400m), Jesus Iguel (200m and long jump), Clayton Kenty (400m), Pamela De Leon Guerrero (800m), Champ Untalan (800m), and Trevor Ogumoro (high jump).

See NATIONAL on Page 26

Draws for Oceania tourney announced

FIBA Oceania has announced the draws for the upcoming Oceania Basketball Tournament, to be held on Saipan from June 20 to 28, 2009.

In the men's draw, the CNMI was placed in Pool B, along with Australia, Guam, and New Caledonia. Pool A will consist of Fiji, Tahiti, Palau, and New Zealand.

Rangamar

In the women's draw, the CNMI was placed in Pool A, along with Fiji, Guam, and New Zealand. Pool B will consist of Tahiti, New Caledonia, Palau, and Australia.

FIBA Oceania determined pool placings for the tournament according to the following criteria:

Australia and New Zealand were placed in different pools, setting up a possible gold medal matchup between the two Pacific powerhouses.

Then, teams were allocated according to their final placing in the last international competition, which was the 2007 South Pacific Games. The top team from SPG was placed in Pool A, the next best team to pool B, the 3rd best team to pool B, the

See DRAWS on Page 26

Lady Knights end SIS' 3-year reign

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mt. Carmel School ended Saipan International School 's reign following a 36-32 finals win in the girls division of the 2009 Coalition of Private Schools on Saipan Basketball League yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Lady Geckos ruled the league for three straight seasons and threatened a fourth when they launched a late rally in the fourth quarter before the Lady Knights held on in the last one minute of the game.

After leading by as much as 13 points (32-19) at the start of the fourth quarter, Mt. Carmel sensed trouble in the last two minutes of the match. SIS moved within four, 30-34, after an Annie Camacho basket, with 1:46 left in the game.

The Lady Geckos had a chance to inch in closer when they stole the ball from Mt. Carmel and Zoe Jewell was fouled on her way to the basket. But Jewell missed both charities.

In the next MCS offensive set, point guard Nicolle Lebria wisely used the clock before pulling up for a 10-footer and making the basket to widen the Lady Knights lead, 36-30, with less than a minute remaining in the fourth period.

SIS cut the lead to four, anew, on an Amber Roberts' basket, but the Lady Geckos ran out of time, ending their three-year reign in the league.

Mt. Carmel, which topped the regular season, dictated the tempo of the game early, taking a 19-13 lead at the end of the first period.

Noelle Calvo led MCS' good start, nailing eight points, while siblings Nicolle and Kaylani Lebria combined for nine points. Michelle Burger scored the other two points for MCS in the first canto.

Maya Oestreich was the lone SIS

See LADY on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mt. Carmel School Lady Knights are all smiles after beating Saipan International School in the finals of the 2009 Coalition of Private Schools on Saipan Basketball League yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Saipan Sports Fest: Best races you never heard of

"The best races you never heard of" is how some are describing the 2009 Saipan Sportsfest held from April 18 to 25, 2009 in the Northern Mariana Islands.

The 8th Annual XTERRA Saipan Championship and 20th Tagaman Triathlon were bookends on a week of competition, XTERRA University workshops, and festivities on these tropical islands in the western Pacific.

Competitors hailed from near and far, including 30 XTERRA athletes and 20 Tagaman triathletes from Japan. Other participants came from Guam, Korea, Australia, the United States, Switzerland, and

See SAIPAN on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sam Gardner, winner of the 2009 XTERRA Saipan Championship and runner-up at the Tagaman Triathlon in April 2009, enjoys lunch provided by 360 Revolving Restaurant with his companion Susan Blackett.